

F4 ANNAPOLIS

BOYS OVER FLOWERS



A modernised adaption from the original comic.

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A modernized adaption from the original Comic “Hana Yori Dango”

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Written for the purpose of inspiring a remake of the TV series franchise.

INTRODUCION:

The base story line from the original comic and TV series was a classic, but today it's a little outdated. Even in the spin offs, there seems to be a common theme within them all. The quality, the intensity and the substance of the characters and story line seem to burn out reasonably fast. The girl lead for instance, starts out fiery. A force to be reckoned with, someone that stands up in the face of adversary and against all odds. Too quickly it seems, after just a few episodes. She loses that fire, intensity and substance that made her a standout character to begin with. She turns into some kind of submissive wimp that cowers at the hands of the male lead's controlling mother, caves to all the pressure and situations that build up around her, stops fighting and runs for the hills. This ending really let's me down. Not only for the viewers, but for the story itself. For instance, the male lead is

attracted to her because she's the only person who has ever stood up to him. She's strong, independent, righteous, prudent, loud, different and interesting from all the other people he has ever met. She stands out to him. But, to have her basically retreat into some kind of timid, overly shy, quiet, borderline brain-dead mute after just a few episodes was a complete flop. It contradicted the reasons why he liked her in the first place. I also don't like the fact that the female lead also acts like a 40-year-old virgin being forced to kiss a stranger. There's no emotion or flowing chemistry, it feels unnatural and awkward to watch. The male lead does well to keep the depth of his character alive, but there's only so much you can do when you have a co-lead that becomes boring and placid and does a complete 360 on what their character originally begun as. I get she was meant to be shy, but it started becoming unfortunately too boring or too corny to watch after a while, and at times just pure cringe. F4 Thailand is the only version I can say that kept it realistic enough to really enjoy. But even in that version, I feel like some things were un-needed and made the story unrealistic. Such as the memory loss and brain damage to the male lead. I feel like too much over the top drama ruins the dynamic of the show.

I would like to recreate the female lead's role in this story, into someone that can actually keep the energy, interest and intensity from start to finish. Someone that can match the male leads depth and growth throughout the story. The dynamic between the upper and lower class is an interesting and intriguing plot. A lot more could have been done with it to build more tension and suspense between all the characters. Seeing the two classes battling it out and bumping heads until finally declaring a truce should have had a lot more substance and flavor to it to grow the different classes bonds more appropriate and realistically. I would also like to include a lot more action and fights to give it a more serious and intense feel.

MUSIC SOUNDTRACK VIBE AND IDEAS:

English version of F4 Thailand's boys over flowers song "who am I"

Heat waves – Glass Animals

I like me better – Jaehyun

Thousand miles – Kid Laroi

Psycho – Post Malone

Candy Paint – Post Malone

Congratulations – Post Malone – Opening stage show song

What makes you beautiful – One Direction

Crown on the ground – Sleigh Bells

All of the lights – Kanye & Rihanna

Drop it low – Ester Dean ft Chris Brown

River – Bishop Briggs

Can we be friends – Justin Bieber

I'm not a vampire or fashionably late – Falling in Reverse

All signs point to Lauderdale – A Day to remember (performed by band)

Shape of my heart – Backstreet boys (acoustic version)

Faded – Alan walker

Airplanes – B.o.B ft Hayley

Angels will rise – Twisted Jukebox (epic orchestra)

I'm the one – DJ Khalid ft Justin Bieber

Starboy – The Weeknd

Don't let me down – The Chainsmokers

Mood – 24kGoldn

All in my head – Fifth Harmony

Hair – Little Mix

Alone – Marshmello

Happier – Marshmello

Primadonna girl – Marina

Trumpster – Timmy trumpet, Contiez ft Trey G remix

Silence – Marshmello

We don't have to take our clothes off – Ella Eyre

CHARACTERS:

FEMALE LEAD - Zaralina Montez - America / Spanish roots

BROTHER - Jonah Montez

DAD - Sergeant Percy Montez

F4

MALE LEAD - Jedakiah Rivera Xanarasee - Thai descent

Luka Tekoa - American / middle eastern ancestry

Elijah Dimitri - Russian roots

Seth Martinez - Spanish

BEST FRIEND - Asher Kelly - American

SCHOOL FRIENDS - Jack Taylor - American

Ruth Jethro - American

LUKAS CHILDHOOD LOVE INTEREST - Gabriella Asperaza

BOSS - Miles Bean - American

MOTOCROSS FRIEND - Joseph black - American

JOSEPH'S FRIEND - TJ

SCHOOL BAND MEMBER LOVE INTEREST - Kaleb Gerome - American

JEDS SISTER - Ciana Xanarasee

JEDS MUM - Madam Priscilla Xanarasee

PRISCILLA'S BODYGUARD - Darius

PERCY'S FRIENDS – Dan and Benny

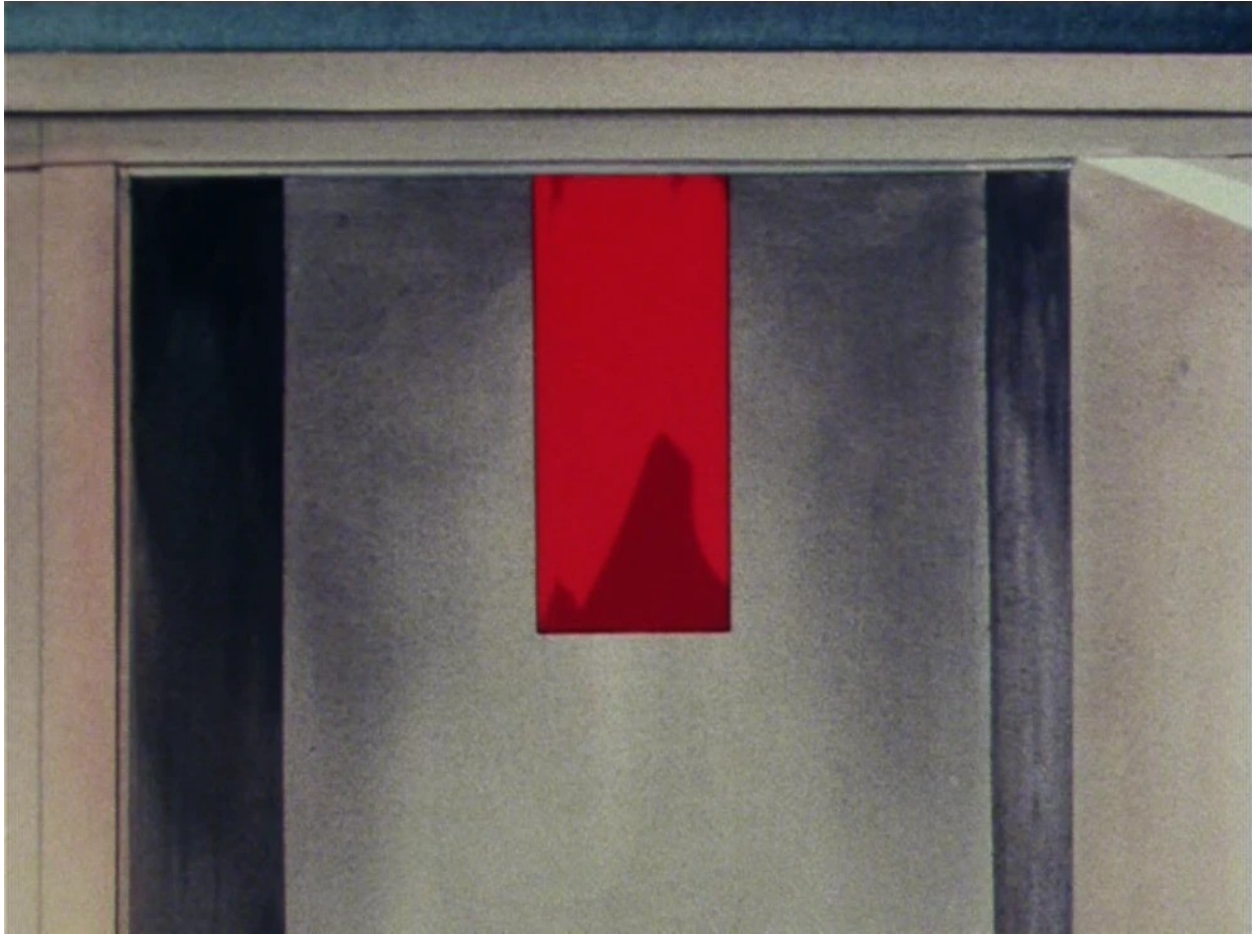
MEAN GIRLS – Tamara, Miranda, Sasha

PRELOGUE:

Zara is starting her second year of high school and is a professional motocross racer who is studying to become a software developer who specializes in creating video games. She was born and raised in the lower-class rough City of Baltimore with her humble christian family. Through extremely hard work she earned a scholarship to one of the most elite high schools in the country “Benara State Academy” in Annapolis. Where only the wealthiest 1% are able to send their children. She travels over an hour every day to attend this Grand school with very high expectations. But after she arrives, she soon finds out that the school is dominated by 4 third year seniors that are sons of some of the richest and most powerful people in the country, F4. The leader's family legally owns 80% of the school. So, he and his friends take full advantage of the privileges that come with that. Eventually butting heads, Zara becomes the new victim of this upper-class group and endures tremendous trials to overcome after she is given the red card by leader Jedakiah. As the school joins in on the Red Card game and torments her, she has no choice but to either fight back or quit the school. Fortunately for her she was raised by an ex-marine who taught combat for the military. Because of his family's living situation and his knowledge of the world. He has trained Zara and her younger brother Jonah since the age of four to be able to protect themselves in every situation they may encounter living in one of the most dangerous parts of America. Overcoming every obstacle Jed throws at her, Zara ends up softening his heart. Coming from a cold controlling elite family who have vowed to marry him to another upper-class family after he completes college, he proudly wants this arrangement until he meets Zara, and she shows him what it means to feel real love for the first time in his life. Zara tries to maintain her morale Christian values as she struggles through the trials and temptations life in an upper-class school and society throw at her.

CHAPTER ONE

The Collision of Light & Darkness



My name is Zaralina Montez, but everyone calls me Zara. Today is the first day of my second year of high school. I was fortunate enough to earn a scholarship to one of the most elite and prestigious schools in the country, Benara State Academy in Annapolis. Both a high school and college in one, it's an internationally iconic place to attend and to gain the highest forms of education available. Spread over 2 separate campuses, where only the wealthiest 1% are able to send their children. Some people only dream of going there, but for me, it's become a reality. My chance to become someone academically successful and hopefully relocate my family to a better part of the country after college. I put all the pressure on myself to get my family out of here, out of one of the most dangerous parts of America... Baltimore. I know I shouldn't, but I do. Dad is just by himself now; he's a retired ex-marine who taught combat for the military for 20 years. He has lived quite an intense life, it's good for him not to do anything that stresses him out anymore. He gained PTSD, severe paranoia and nightmares after leaving the military, he also drinks a bit to escape his memories and

thoughts. I always pray he finds a healthier way to cope with his past. It's not like he doesn't know a different way, but old people are stubborn. That's what I've learnt from him anyway. But I've also learnt a lot of other things from him. Some things me and my younger brother Jonah had to learn were mandatory. For instance, because my dad's family all grew up around these parts of America and he's because seen the worst this world has to offer. He's trained us since the age of four in multiple fighting techniques that he learned throughout his life and his time in the military. Mixed martial arts, Kick boxing, wrestling, street fighting, krav maga, muay thai, you name it. At first, I didn't enjoy it, it was a drag as a child. But as I grew up, it became one of the family's daily routines, and I grew to love and look forward to it. Plus, the skill set has saved me on more than one occasion. Literally, saved my life. So, I understand now why my dad was so persistent for all those years. But there's only one rule he drills into us nearly every day. "ONLY FIGHT IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE." He doesn't want us looking for trouble, he just wants us to be able to protect ourselves if he isn't around. He also taught us other things like motocross, but that was more my thing. I prefer being a stunt artist to racing though. For some reason racing just seems more dangerous. My brain logic... Jonah was more interested in skateboarding and music. Well, these days it's more rapping. He's always making up raps and beat boxing a different tune around the house. But one thing we have always loved to do together is gaming. We are gaming freaks! We will sit there all weekend at times battling it out in Fortnite, Call of Duty and all the latest games, he's great fun. It's just us, me, Jonah and dad. But we all do our part to make it a loving, happy home. We lost our mum 7 years ago; she was abducted one night after her friend's birthday party. I still wonder whether she's alive or not, and what happened... But I try not to dwell on it or talk about it too much because it makes dad sad. I know he regrets not being there that night and not being able to prevent it. I think that's why he drinks more these days, regret. But despite all that, he does a great job to take up for mum. Dad's even taken up her job of taking us to church most Saturday mornings, unless one of us has commitments we can't cancel. He has taken up her faith and has made sure we continue in it too. Sure, we don't have everything we want, but dad makes sure that we always have everything we need. A roof over our heads, food on the table and each other. Oh, and our dog Charlie. He's our Malamute that dad got us to cheer us up after mum died. And it worked. He was just what we needed to lift the atmosphere in the house. Also, a couple of years ago Jonah bought home a stray cat and it hasn't left us since. So now Claus is also a part of the family, we love him dearly though. Anyway, back to my first day. I was eager to

return to school, I had finally learned Fencing at the beginning of last year and it had become one of my favorite classes, along with dancing and software development. It made me feel like I was living back in old medieval times, fighting with the methods they used to challenge each other. It fascinated me, and with the help of the skill set dad has taught me, I became quickly advanced at the art of sword fighting and had become one of the most highly ranked in the school. I also enjoyed the classical music classes and extra-curricular activity classes. It's truly an amazing school. Apart from one major problem... But I'll get to that later. I put on my uniform and slightly brush my messy, dark spiral shoulder length hair. I put on my dark burgundy waterproof lipstick, that matches nicely with my dark features and olive skin. Mum used to joke and call me Wednesday Adams because I always wear black. Jonah and dad still joke about it from time to time, but I think these days they're pretty much used to it and have accepted it's just the way I am.

Dad made sure to make this morning a special one to commemorate my second year in Benara State Academy. As I come downstairs dad does his daily sneak attacks to check my reflexes, we laugh as catch his attempts to catch me off guard from behind the kitchen door. "Ahh never too early for you darlin!" Dad says before grabbing a pair of keys off the fridge and throwing them to me. "what's this?" I ask. "Well, I've been saving up since you got into this school to be able to buy a decent motorbike to drive yourself to school and to work. Travelling on a bus for over an hour and a half every day to go to such a famous school is so uncool for you upper class kids." Dad jokes. Dad, please..." I smirk. "SO" he continues. "I got this for my baby to become independent so you can get to your studies, work and moto club without being late." he smiles. My heart melts a little... "Thanks dad, you're awesome." I thanked him as I gave him a big hug. "Your welcome sweetheart, she's only secondhand, but Joel said his son barely rode it, so it hasn't been used much. Basically, brand new!" He boasts. "I love it dad, tell him thanks for me." I have breakfast, feed Charlie and make my way out the door. "Have a good day sweetheart and remember! NO DATING UNTIL COLLEGE. Boys in high school are too young to know what they want; trust me I was one." Dad finishes sternly. "Yes, dad I know. Love you, bye!" I hurried off to start up my new red 150cc learner approved Kazamarti road bike. It sounds rough and tough. I'm seriously in love. I started to make my way to school, it runs like a dream. And I arrive at school in 1 hour! a record time. Hopefully I didn't speed, but I was so excited that maybe I could have been, oops. I pull into the grand car park and find an area to make my daily spot. As I park and remove my helmet and start to get my things organized,

my friend Jack sees me and runs over to me excitedly. "Zara! Is that you? You're coming to school on a bike now? Wow so cool. I wish my mum would let me learn, but she said I would die so that scared me off a little." Jack complains. Jack is my first and only friend at Benara Academy. He's also a scholarship student, so initially we bonded over that and have been inseparable ever since. He always has such high energy; I have barely ever seen him down with a frown. But it balances me out in ways, I've always been more reserved and quieter in public and at school. It's nice to have someone chatty around who always makes you laugh and smile. "What class have you got first?" He asked. "Chemistry" I replied. "Me too!" Jack hollers. "Hey, who do you think we'll see attend school this year? The Presidents grandkids? Beyonce's daughter? Ooooh, I know! or maybe one of Brad and Angie's adopted kids!?" Jack finishes excitedly. "Dude, chill out." I smirk. We walk to where the lockers are and find ours. "I made sure I got the locker next to you this year! Jack exclaims. I smile as I remove my motorbike jacket and put on my school blazer.

As we enter the class, we find seats next to each other and start talking while we wait for class to begin. We spoke about the holidays and what we did over Christmas. And then a new student walks over to us and sits down. "Hi, I'm Ruth. I just transferred here, where are you guys from?" she asks cheerfully. "Err from Chicago, but I live close by here now for school." Jack explains with his face lit up. "Baltimore." I say. "Baltimore? ... Didn't someone get stabbed to death there the other night?" Ruth says nervously. "probably." I said. "Ah, cool... do you guys want to be friends?" Ruth asks us. We looked at each other confused, no one had ever tried to hang out with us at this school before, let alone just ask us out of the blue to be friends, so it was a little weird. "Uh sure!" Jack yells confidently. "We'd be happy to be your new BFF's!" she smiles. I look at him slightly embarrassed for how corny he is at times. "What are your names?" Ruth asks. "I'm Jack and this is Zara!" He replies as I raise my hand and give a wave. "What are you hoping to become?" I Jack asked her. "A physicist!" Ruth claims. "I want to work at CERN alongside the world's other greats! What about you guys?" She asked. "Software developer." I reply. "I'm thinking a fireman." Jack replies. "What are you six?" I protest. "Hey! It's a good way to help the community, to stay fit and healthy and of course, to attract all the birds." Jack proudly smirks and winks. "What birds?" I mock. "Seagulls?" Ruth asked. "Never mind!" Jack snaps. "What about you Ruth, what are your plans for the rest of the day?" He adds. "Well, I need to find the office again at some point and get a locker, they still haven't given me one to put my things in yet. Oh yeah... and is

there any advice or tips you can give a new student like me? I want to do my best while I'm here." Ruth claims confidently. Me and Jack both look at each other and give a look. "Actually, there is." I said. "Do you know anything about this school?" I ask. "Just what the teacher has told me and what they say online." Ruth replied. "Have you experienced bullying before?" I ask. "Uh no." Ruth replies. "Have you bullied anyone before?" I continue. "No, why?" she replies. "Well, in this school the bullying is severe." I begin. "What? bullying!? In a school like this?" Ruth replies, shocked. "Because it's a school like this, is the very reason they can get away with it." I add. Suddenly, every student's phone in the classroom started receiving a notification. "What! Already? But it's the first day!" Jack protests in frustration. "What? What's happening?" Ruth asked, confused. "In this school there's a game." I started to explain. "The game is judged by the most influential group in school, whoever runs into trouble with them will receive a red card in their locker. Which means everyone in school can do whatever they want to this person. They know they can't do anything serious in front of the cameras. They must be as subtle as possible; everything must look like an accident. Until the person is finally brought to the old stadium at the back of the school, it's the only place without CCTV. If there's no evidence, no one can do anything. Everyone knows no phones or recordings are allowed in the stadium. Whoever breaks the rule will also get a red card, so no one dares. The group of boys that run this barbaric roman Olympics, are known as F4. seniors that come from family's made up of some of the wealthiest conglomerates, industry moguls and businessmen in the country." I finish. "I heard one of their parents own 80% of the school" Jack whispers. "That must be their green pass." I answer. Ruth gives us a concerned look. "Surely, it's not that bad? ... Can we go to see?" She asked. "What!" Jack gasps. "You want to go see...?" He asks. "I'm just curious to know firsthand is all... It's a little hard to believe." Ruth replies. "Fine! You want to go, we'll go. Come on Zara, let's show this noob what she's getting into." Jack snaps. I sigh in frustration and follow them out of the classroom over to the stadium. We walk up along the grandstand next to the seating areas and lean over the stadium boundary poles so Ruth can get a good look. "Oh my..." She gasps in disbelief. As one male student can be seen getting beaten by 3 others. "This is no joke... why doesn't anybody do anything?" Ruth asks desperately. "HA, why do you think sweet cheeks. They don't want to get caught in the storm themselves." Jack replies as he continues to give Ruth a rundown on the situation. I look over to the opening of the stadium, and F4 walks out and sits on the lounges. The guy who got the red card looked so scared; he looks like he already copped enough of a beating. As everyone gets quiet, the leader of the group

Jedakiah walks over to the student and starts accusing him of trying to expose them and the game. He leans in close to the student and says something to him and then shows him the student's phone he had in his hand. The student loses it because F4 had wiped all the evidence he had on them. Suddenly, he gets up and punches Jedakiah and everyone goes quiet.

Jedakiah smiles and gives the guy a crazy look. "You're not done huh?"

Jedakiah asked while laughing and walking towards him, then suddenly striking him to the ground. As this started, I noticed one of the F4 members turn around and started to leave. He looked up and our eyes locked for a couple of seconds before he continued through the back exit. I caught myself thinking, how can someone with such an innocent face and calm demeanor be one of those turds? Oh well, he must be a turd deep down or something.

As the last period drew near, I couldn't stop thinking about that student that just got pummeled by all those punks... Why didn't I help him? Why haven't I

helped anyone since I came to this school? Am I scared of these turds? I don't know. I just wanted to keep my head down until I graduate... But doing nothing has started to become an even bigger problem at the school. I know me and Jack always think it. "Why doesn't anyone do anything" surely, we can't be the only ones thinking it, surely there must be more... But how to find them. I run up to the roof top of the school where I go sometimes when I need somewhere quiet to hang out. I'm in a rage; I can't calm down. I'm so angry with myself. My parents raised me better than this. Mum would be so disappointed in me. I pick up a chair and lob it across the roof top. I pick up a couple more and throw them too. Trying to let all my frustration out so I can return to class without having a mental breakdown in front of everyone. I pick up a table and throw it into a wall and it smashes to pieces. "I hate this school!" I scream. "Bunch of wannabe gangsters think they're so cool SCREW

YOU F4!" I scream, and then take a few deep breaths. I compose myself before turning around and exiting the roof area while mumbling under my breath "bunch of rich wankers."

As Zara was leaving, Luka, the F4 member who Zara thought was innocent looking, was on the roof drawing, and had seen and heard everything. He looked confused as he watched her leave, then smirked, and continued to draw.

As I left school that day, I still couldn't shake the gut wrenching feeling of seeing another human being in pain. Even the fact that I'm riding my new motorbike doesn't seem to give me any peace or comfort. I try to shrug it off

as I arrive for my job at the Music shop near the center of town in Annapolis.

But my best friend Asher knows me too well to hide anything. She works there too; we both have since the start of last year. We've known each other since preschool. Oh, and our boss Miles is like our second dad, an old school musician that has ran his own music shop for over a decade. We're so grateful to him, he really has been there for us a lot. Tending to our girl problems, cheering us up and treating us to pizza if we've had a rough day. He treats us as if we were his own daughters, he's a gem. Best job ever, well apart from the pay. Which could always be more but hey, I'm not

complaining. A job is a job, and I'll take anything I can get to take the pressure off my dad a little for having to provide everything himself. "what's with your face? Asher snaps. "You come here on a new bike I expect to see a raging Cheshire cat, what happened? Spill. Now" she demands. "Mm, it's the red card again, it was really bad this time." I explain. "Eh! that stupid game is still going? What the heck, it's the first day of school! Brutal." Asher says angrily. "I know... I can't get it out of my head... Those F4 douche bags are getting worse, I don't know how much longer I can take seeing all this horrible stuff go on." I grumble helplessly. "Just don't do anything that will get you kicked out of school Z. Kids would kill to go to a school like that.

Don't let them ruin this opportunity for you." Asher reasons. "Who? Those F4 boys? Ah, no matter how many times I hear about this red card it's still hard to believe. This F4 you're talking about, are they the same F4 that everyone else is talking about? Every time I see them online or in the media all I see are good things, people love them. They speak like well-mannered young men" Miles chimes in while on the computer. "Well-mannered my ass" I mumble. "Look here" Miles says pointing at the computer. "Their followed by hundreds of thousands of people! The first one, "Jedakiah Rivera Xanarasee"

from Thailand decent, is the handsome heir of the Xanarasee Group." Me and Asher look at him strange. "What? I'm not gay. Anyway" Miles continues. "His family owns one of the largest real-estate conglomerates in the Country. He's the only son of the infamous Priscilla Xanarasee. With his cool swag and wealthy lifestyle, he's a wanted bachelor for all the young elite women. He's good at sports and school, he seems perfect." "A perfect little turd." I add.

"Okay... Next" Miles continues. "Elijah Dimitri, they say any upper-class girl who likes to party would know him. With his Russian decent and cool bad boy looks and lifestyle, he's definitely the dark horse of the group. His family are one of the largest owners of entertainment venues and event spaces. You may bump into him at any well-known posh place." Miles ends with a smile. "Dark horse alright, his family does a lot of shady business. He's got men in blacks following him around all the time. He's MAFIA." I complain. "Mm,

mafia boy is kind of cute" Asher adds. "Stop right there" I demand. "This one is a playboy. All the girls in school say so." I finish. "Right, next we have... ahh... Seth Martinez. Of Spanish descent, the heir of one of the oldest families in the country. His family members are high level government officials, doing business in American goods exports. It seems like he has good taste, he looks expensive and charming." "Another playboy... He's always got girls hanging off him." I add. "Lucky little prick... Right, what about the last one Luka Tekoa. Heir of the number 1 health care center and pharmaceutical exports in California. He looks like a quiet, cold and mysterious dude." Miles ends curiously. "Look" Asher says showing me her phone with Luka's Instagram. "He seems the most indie out of all of them, he only posts drawings and scenery, look." I give his page a glance and examine his skillful drawings and articulate photography. I can't help but be a bit surprised... and a little impressed. "He seems... kind of different." I say confused, as the image of us locking eyes earlier passed through my mind. "Ah! We've found the white horse then!" Miles says with a laugh. "I wouldn't go that far... he's still one of them. So, he still must be somewhat bad... Or brain damaged to go along with what they do." I end angrily. "Ohh come on Z, you're telling me this guy isn't white horse material?" Asher demands while showing me a handsome photograph of him on her phone. "NO. Plus, it doesn't matter what they look like. They all enable each other's bad behavior and that just makes them ugly to me." I protested angrily. "Fine, point taken... A bad boy, even if he's cute, isn't worth my time." Asher states confidently. I glance at her with a grin and continue to work. "So what boys ARE worth your time?" Miles interjects. "NONE. I'm not dating until college." I stated. "You're not seriously going to take your dad's old timers' advice, are you?" Asher nags. "It's good advice, and plus, he's right. People are too young to know what they want right now. And do I want a charade of different boyfriends coming and going like my friend here? Ahh no." I said looking at Asher with a sarcastic grin. "Hey! It's not a charade, it's called 'finding the one' helloooo, don't you know you need to kiss 100 frogs first before you finally kiss your prince?" Asher asks. "Um I'm okay with not doing that." I state confidently. "Your loss" Asher says. "I don't think so." I reply. "You girls!" Miles snaps. "You shouldn't joke about this stuff. The first kiss is the most important one, you know why?" Me and Asher looks at each other in confusion. "Because there can only be one. So, make sure it's with someone you respect and who respects you. Someone you trust and love, that way you don't have to kiss 100 frogs." Miles finishes with a concerned look on his face. "Aww Miles! You didn't tell us you were such a hopeless romantic down under all that ink." Asher says while we share a slight giggle.

“And if anyone asks, I’m not!” He stated sharply before storming off into the back room. As work is finishing and I help Asher close up, she’s asks me “are you going to motocross tonight?” looking excited to join me as usual. She didn’t ride but she had a lot of friends there now after coming with me to spectate all these years. “I think I’m going to pass on it tonight. I’m a little tired.” I replied. “Fine, I’ll you tomorrow. Don’t think too hard, okay? Get an early night.” I gave her a smile and headed out the door.

As I get back home, I see dad and Jonah on the porch eating pizza. I pull my bike into the small shed connected to the house and park it next to dad’s ute. “We saved you some!” Dad yells out. “Extra crispy tonight!” Jonah adds. I look at them and smile, relieved to be back home after such an exhausting day. “Thanks” I say as I sit down next to them and Charlie the dog. “How was the first day sweetie?” Dad asks interested. I look at him blankly for a moment, trying to scramble some kind of answer together. “It was okay, the bike went great, thanks again dad. I might take this and head in, I’m a little tired.” I say while holding a piece of pizza. “No worries sweetie, we’ll see you in the morning then. Love you.” dad says with a concerned smile. “Night Zara!” My Jonah happily yells while stuffing his face with more pizza. I headed upstairs and took a shower, then put myself to bed. Images of that boy who got hurt are still running wild through my head. Brain shut off, please shut off, just let me sleep...

In the morning, I managed to last an entire 30 seconds before memories of that boy once again passed through my thoughts. I give a sigh and get up for school, hopefully today is a better day. I make my way downstairs and dodge dad’s sneak attack without trying or reacting and sit down at the table. “Woah, someone woke up on the wrong side this morning.” Jonah jokingly says. “I’m fine” I say slightly smirking at him. “Well, if that’s the case get some of this into ya, you need a good meal to stay strong with whatever’s going on at least. Soldiers need to stay alert you know?” Dad demands playfully. I smile as I take a big bite of the scrambled eggs and bacon he cooked up. As I left for school that morning, I had a moment on the way where I felt relaxed and at peace. I said a prayer and thanked God and I decided I wasn’t going to carry my worries into a new day. I gave myself a big encouraging smile as I continued the ride to school.

When I walk into the classroom, I see Jack talking to Ruth, asking her 1000 questions and trying his best to make a good impression, I can tell. "Hey guys" I say cheerfully. "Zara hey!" Jack says while they both wave happily. As I took my seat the bell rings and the teacher started telling everyone to quiet down and take their seats.

As Lunch time arrives, we all pack our things away in our bags and start down toward the cafeteria together. We lined up to buy food and drinks and looked for a place to sit. "Over here!" Jack hollers. "This is a good enough spot" he says proudly. As we sit down, we glance over to the seating area above the cafeteria that F4 had made exclusively for themselves. They were all chatting among one another as if nothing had happened. I looked away, I was starting to get angry again. How can they be so heartless? I wonder in disgust. "Soo. What did you ladies get today?" Jack asks. "Spaghetti Bolognaise!" Ruth replied with a large grin. "it's my favorite!" she adds. "Salad" I say calmly. "What! salad? You're at one of the greatest schools in the country that makes hundreds of different kinds of food, and you get a salad? Live a little, would ya? Here, try this." Jack demands while putting some unknown substance on my tray. "I don't want it, it smells weird." I reply sternly. "What! Weird? It's Malaysian prawn curry, It's the best." Jack insists. "I'm good." I speak. "Hey, did you hear what happened to that guy yesterday? I heard some girls saying he quit school and he's in the hospital. I don't think he's coming back." Ruth says saddened. "Ha, would you want to come back?" Jack sarcastically asks. "I wouldn't want to come back to this place ever again if that happened to me. No matter how good the school is, that's just too much for people, ya know?" Jack finishes. "Yeah, I guess... it's just not right though...Hey Zara, are you alright? You're a little quiet is everything okay?" Ruth asked with a concerned look. "Yeah, I'm okay, just thinking." I reply. "About what? That student?" Ruth said. "Well, I wasn't... but now I am." I say with a frown. "Oh gosh! That's my fault I shouldn't have bought it up! Let's talk about something else, something fun! Like, what are your plans for the weekend?" Ruth promptly asks, trying her best to change the subject. "I'm spending the weekend down at my dad's shack to chill with the ladieees." Jack nods proudly. "Okay... What about you Zara?" Ruth asks. "Probably go to the track, take my mind of reality for a while." I reply. "Cool, morbid." Jack said. "The track?" Ruth asked. "Motocross track." I finish. "Yeah! Haven't you heard of our little champion sitting right here at this table with us? We're in the presence of motocross royalty." Jack says over excitedly. I give him a weird look. "What really? That's so cool. I wish my parents taught me how to ride one, they look like so much fun." Ruth's

states intrigued. We all continue talking and eating our meals before Ruth frantically gets up and gasps “I almost forgot! I had a newcomers counselling session at lunch! Ah! They're going to be so annoyed at me. I have to go, I'll see you guys in class okay!” Ruth says as she's getting up from the seat next to me and gathering all her things. “Okay bye!” me and Jack both say in unison before turning back around to continue eating our food. When suddenly... We heard a loud crash happen behind me. I look up across the table from me, and Jack looks behind me and puts his hand to his mouth with a horrified look on his face. I think “what the heck” to myself before quickly turning around in my seat. I look up, and I see the leader of F4 “Jedakiah” standing over Ruth with a fiery look on his face. I look down and see Ruth's food tray on the ground with her left-over Bolognese plastered all over Jedakiah's silver shoes. I swerve back around in my seat and look down at the table with my heart beating out of my chest. I look up at Jack; he looks back at me with a scared expression. I look back down at the table and start praying in my head that he spares her... I eventually hear Jedakiah start talking to Ruth. “Is this your way of approaching a guy?” He snaps, while the rest of F4 are standing behind him looking at her. Ruth goes silent, she can't speak. I continue to pray in my head that this doesn't escalate... “Huh?!” Jed continues sternly, pushing her to answer him. “I-I-I'm sorry. I will get your shoes dry cleaned for you... Or-or, buy you a new pair.” Ruth stutters nervously. “Buy me a new pair?” He scoffs. “Do you know what these are? These were tailor made in Paris. You're going to buy me a new pair?” Jedakiah snaps. Ruth goes quiet, and a single tear drops from her eye. “Please... I didn't mean to. Just tell me what to do, I'll do anything please just let me leave.” She pleads. “Anything?” He smiles smugly. Then some students start yelling out suggestions of what Ruth could do. “She should get down and clean your shoes right now!” someone says. “Or lick them!” another yells as the whole cafeteria laughs. Jedakiah smiles, then looks down at her and says “yeah that. Lick them.” He demands with a smug look on his face. Then the whole cafeteria starts chanting in unison. “LICK THEM... LICK THEM... LICK THEM!” The crowd starts getting louder as more join in. My hands are shaking, my breathing is getting heavier, I can feel the rage reaching to the top of my head where the anger part of the brain is and flicking it like a bug, repeatedly, triggering every last nerve I have in me. I can feel all reason and self-control leave my body. Until suddenly... I snap. I slap my hands down on the table as hard as I can. It makes a loud noise; I push myself up from my seat and look at the back wall over Jack's head. The whole cafeteria is quiet. Jedakiah looks at me. I can feel his eyes digging a hole in the back of my head. Jack glares at me, then Jedakiah, then back to

me and whispers under his breath "Um... Zara. WHAT.ARE.YOU.DOING?" I don't answer, I can't even blink. I can literally feel fumes coming out of my ears. I can't... I can't let what happened to that boy happen to Ruth. I WONT. I think to myself. Jack whispers to me again "Zara please don't. Just sit down, you can still sit down just sit down please!" he pleads. I sharply turn around and walk towards Jedakiah. I don't look him in the eyes as I approach. I look at the ground as I walk, until I see Jedakiah's spaghetti covered shoes in front of me and then I stop. I stand there in silence for a few seconds before he says to me "What are you doing?" ... I don't answer. I'm so angry I don't even know what's going to come out of my mouth right now. He leans in closer to my face "answer me." He demands. At that moment I look up and yell in his face "THAT'S ENOUGH!" ... The room goes quiet for a moment, then Jedakiah's face goes blank. "What did you just say?" He says in disgust. I repeat myself even louder. "I said... THAT'S ENOUGH!" He takes a step towards me ... "I say when it's enough, alright?" he says with as much authority as he can. "I don't think so." I reply. Not breaking eye contact. "Who do you think you are? ... Just WHO the HELL do you think you are!!!" I repeat. Jedakiah just stares down at me with a crazy look on his face. "Do you think your funny rich boy? You think just because mommy and daddy have a bit of money, that you can order people around in the playground? Your parents made the fortune not you, you haven't done anything, you haven't earned a dime of your life! So, how about you take your tacky tailor made queer as folk looking shoes and give them back to the French drag queen you bought them from and get off my friends back!" I loudly demand. Jedakiah death stares me... Then a slight sluggish smile went across his face as he walked past. He pauses next to Ruth on his way out and leans in close as she looks at the ground and says to her smugly. "Your fortunate to have such a friend." And then walks out of the cafeteria. The rest of F4 follow behind him as they pass by me. I look up for a moment as they pass and Luka locks eyes with me again, and ever so slightly smirks as he walks past. Did he just smile at me? Why would he smile after I said that to his friend? He really is weird I thought. I turned around and sat back down at the lich table. Jack is staring at me with a dead look on his face. There's silence for a good 10 seconds before he finally says "Well... That settles it. We're doomed."

When school finishes Jack walks with me out to the car park, quieter than usual. "Zara?" He speaks. "Yeah?" I answer. "Do you think you will get the red card?" Jack asked timidly. I pause walking and look at him. "Do you think I will?" I ask. "I don't know Zara... But I feel nervous you know?" Jack says

with a deeply concerned look on his face. "It'll be okay alright? Don't worry about me." I say with a smile as I continue walking. "Yeah, you're probably right. I mean, they've never given a red card to any girl before. Maybe they don't do girls?" He questions. "Let's hope." I say quietly. "But hey, do you think maybe you should catch the bus to school for a while until things cool down?" Jack says. I turned around and looked at him. "Why? Do you think they will touch my bike?" I ask a little worried. "I don't know Zara; I don't know anything. I'm not sure what these people are like... But remember what they did to that guy's car last year? I just don't think you should take any chances with your new bike." Jack explains. I thought about it for a moment, and he's right. It's always good to be 2 steps in front of the enemy in case there is any retaliation. "Thanks Jack. That's actually not a bad idea. I'll just catch the bus for the rest of the week, better than risking it. Anyway, I better get going. I have work and then motocross afterwards. See you tomorrow, Jack!" I say while starting my motorbike. "Bye! Good luck! See you tomorrow!" Zack yells out over the sound of the bike.

As Zara is leaving F4 leader Jedakiah is sitting in the back of his coach car watching Zara take off. He looks mad as he buzzes up his window and gets driven out of the car park.

I turn up at work and tell Asher and Miles everything that happened at school, and that there's a possibility I could get the red card. "ARE YOU JOKING?!" Asher hollers. "HA, your awesome." Miles said before shoving a handful of chips in his mouth. "Awesome? I thought you were going to keep your head down until you finish school, so you don't get kicked out. This wanker's mum owns like all the school remember? Do you really think starting a war with her son is smart?" Asher scolds. "What was I supposed to do? Just sit there and watch Ruth get forced to lick food off his shoes?" I ask. "Mm... No, I suppose not. But did you have to tell him he has the fashion sense of a drag queen?" she asks while Miles spits his chips out laughing. "HA, CLASSIC!" he goes. "Well, it's true, the spaghetti falling on the shoes was the best thing that could have happened to the shoes." I reason.

"Even so, it's not going to be good if you get the red bloody card, is it? And what if your dad finds out 4 older boys are harassing you? Do you think he will let that go?" Asher says concerned. "Yeah, he'll probably rock up to the school and give em' an old school military ass whopping." Miles adds. "Stop worrying, okay? He's not going to find out, I'll just say it's a bunch of girls if it goes that far. I won't let him get in trouble." I finish. "Okay... Just be careful.

Anyway, let's pack up and go, I'm meeting TJ at the track tonight." Asher smiles. "Taylor? He's so lame though..." I protest. "But he's cute/lame don't you think?" Asher asked with a bigger smile on her face. "No. I don't think. Now let's go." I say sternly. We both head out to my bike, and she brings her own helmet out that she keeps at work. I'm always giving her lifts and taking her places, so she thought it best to have her own helmet that fits properly so I don't have to bring my spare around with me. She's so thoughtful like that.

Once I finally get back home after dropping Asher off. I play a few games of Fortnite with Jonah, heat my dinner up and take it up to my room to eat. I'm so knackered, I fall straight to sleep after eating. Such a mentally draining day. I need to recharge...

I wake up feeling good. Today's a new day, and the 3rd day back at school. I'm excited for my fencing classes to finally begin in second period. I have it for the next 3 days, so this is my favorite time of the week to be at school. I take a shower, get myself ready and make my way downstairs for breakfast. Dodging dad's sneak attack yet again, we all laugh as I take a seat. "Nice to see you in a better mood today sweetheart! We'll spend some time after school together today if you like? I got today off so we'll do some sparring in the back or play some videos games, whatever you want." He says cheerfully. "Sounds good dad." I smile. "Can't today, me and Tom's going to the skate park." Jonah adds. "Tom and I." Dad annoyingly corrects. "Whatevz." Jonah replies. "Whatevz? You kids are too cool these days to even finish words now?" Dad says sarcastically. "I'm just trying to keep up with the current street talk dad." Jonah replies. "You and me both." Dad laughs. "Okay, I gotta go. I'm catching the bus today and NO, nothing's wrong with the bike I'm just in the mood to sit back and relax is all." I say with a fake smile. "Alright sweetie, whatever floats your boat and keeps you chill is cool with me." He says as he winks and kisses me on the head. "Just don't forget our dad and daughter session today, okay?" Dad finishes. "I won't, I promise. Bye!" I say happily as I go out the door and head to the bus stop.

As I arrive at school, Jack is waiting at the bus stop for me. I jump off and we greet and fist bump each other. "Glad to see you took my advice for once."

Jack says playfully. I roll my eyes at him and comment "better to be safe, then sorry." "True dat." Jack replies.

"Hey guys wait up!" Ruth yells out from across the street before hurrying over. "Hey what's up? Where did you go yesterday? We saved you a seat in class." Jack mopes. "Sorry, after all that happened, I just needed to go home. I felt like I was having an anxiety attack...But Zara, thank you. Thank you for standing up for me when I couldn't even do it for myself. You're a really kind person, I'm happy that I have a friend like you." Ruth says nearly in tears.

"Don't mention it." I smiled, touched that I could make a difference in her world. We all chat amongst ourselves as we enter school and head towards the lockers. "My lockers over here! I'll see you guys in class." Ruth says as she hurries off to find her new locker. "Hey! Do you want to come to my dad's shack with me this weekend? He's got a new fishing boat and wants to take me squidding! It's so much fun you'll love it I promise!" Jack begs. "Can't. I got work, church and motocross." I say while entering the code into my lockers pad lock. "You say that every weekend." Jack moans. "Can't you just take one weekend off for once to come have some fun? You always have such a tight schedule, I never fit into it, when are we going to go on journeys and adventures huh? ... Zara?... Zara!" Jack suddenly looks up from his locker and looks at me. I'm frozen in front of my locker with an emotionless expression. Jacks looks at my locker... And the red card is hanging there.

CHAPTER 2:

The Bulls of Bashan



Jack goes quiet and then looks at me. “Zara...” He numbly gasps. I look at him with a nervous look. Then every student's phone around us started getting notifications on the school's group chat. (which one could only assume F4 are the admins of) The post reads; “A new red card has been given to second year Jr Zaralina Montez. Locker number 618.” Everyone starts looking at me and pointing. I look around quickly to see if anyone is about to make a move... I turn to Jack and quickly say “don’t look for me.” As

I put my phone in my skirt pocket and throw my bag in my locker before running down the hallway away from everyone. "Zara!" Jack yells after me.

The anonymous people in the group chat starts posting.

"She's the first girl!"

"I wonder how long she will last"

"I bet she won't last the day!"

"She's running LOL"

"Where is she running to? ☐"

I ran into the class I was meant to attend and go up to the teacher. I whisper in her ear that I'm having period pains and need to go to the medical unit for a while. She nods her head, writes a note and lets me leave.

As Zara is leaving the classroom, three of the school's top mean girls (and F4 groupies) are watching her, speculating where she could be going. "Where does she think she's going?" Miranda scoffs. "Yeah, can't run forever forest!" Sasha says as they all crack up.

I sit in the medical unit, turn my phone on silent and watch the school group chat to make sure no-one knows I'm here. But people were soon onto me...

"Where did she go???"

"Dunno she left class"

"Probably hiding in the toilets"

"Or the medical unit"

And surely enough, within a few minutes, I heard a few people walk into the medical unit to look for me. "Zaraaaa.... Hey Zaraaa." one boy goes, checking behind different curtains. "You in here Zara? We just want to talk." Another says sarcastically. As they get closer, I hide behind the table next to the bed. Then suddenly the nurse came in and interfered. "What are you lot doing in here? You're not supposed to be in here, get back to class!" she demands. "Ohh nurse but we're sick." One girl says. "Well get a note from your teacher and come back then." She says firmly. "Crap." I think. That only gives me a few minutes, I need to make a move. I'll message Jack to bring my bag and meet me in the fire escape so I can go home. As soon as I see the coast is clear, I make a run for it. Thank God I only pass by a couple people on the way who didn't seem to recognize me. I wait by the fire

escape for Jack, he says he's on his way. As soon as he shows up, I pull him into the fire escape door.

As Zara and Jack are going in the fire escape, they are spotted by the 3 mean girls. Who starts to plan an attack on Zara when she comes back out.

"Thank you so much, you're a life saver!" I say to Jack as he hands me my bag. "Are you okay? Did anything happen? Where did you go?" Jack asked deeply concerned. "To the medical unit, but they came in looking for me so I can't hide there anymore, I'm just going to go home... And try to think of something to tell dad." I reply. "Are you sure you're okay? I'm really scared for you Zara." Jack states. "I'm sure. Hopefully this will all just blow over if I stick it out long enough... I'm not letting them win. Please promise me something though?" I say to Jack being as serious as possible. "Don't come near me at school for a while." I say sadly. "What? No! Why?" Jack demands. "Because if anyone sees you talking to me, they will harass you too, and I'm not with you every second of the day, I can't protect you if I'm not there. So please..." I finish. "Zara... No. You're my best friend." Jack states. "And because I'm your best friend is exactly why you're going to do this for me. I can't worry about you too. You can support me in secret, okay?" I add with a big reassuring smile. "I don't like it Zara...You being alone through this." Jack replies. "I'm not alone though, I'll always have my best friend." I say as I scruff his hair with my hand. Jack gasps "That's the first time you've ever called me your best friend! Wow! I'm so touched right now! Okay best friend I'll do as you say, but I still don't like it! Who am I going to sit with in class and at lunch?" he moped. "You and Ruth will be fine." I reply as I try not to laugh at how needy he is. "Hopefully it won't be for too long." I say enthusiastically. "Anyway, we both should get going before someone sees us." I add. "True... Let's go." Jack replies as we start walking towards the door. As Jack opens the door he says "oh, say hi to your dad for me too." He smiles. "I will." I reply as I walk through the door Jack is holding open for me. As soon as I get into the hallway, I am met with a big bucket of water being thrown all over me. I look up "What the hell!" I exclaimed. The 3 girls laugh to scorn as they run up the hall yelling "SHES OVER HERE! RED CARD GIRL IS OVER HERE! COME QUICK!" then Jack tells me to run. I take off the opposite way down the hall trying to find an exit out of the school. I see one, I run towards it. But as I get closer a group of people appear standing next to it, leaning on the windows. "THERE SHE IS!" one spots me and points me out. They all laugh and start walking towards me. "A girl huh? This is going to be fun." One says as I turn around and bolt in another direction. I get around a corner and I see the 3 mean girls with a few guys walking with them, looking

around and making hoodlum noises. I turn back around, there's no exits in this area of the school. I look for a door to go in, Thank God! I see a door to the rooftop, so I hurry and go up before anyone sees. As I walk out on the school roof top dripping wet, I'm enraged with what has just gone on. Infuriated, in fact. I throw my bag down and pick up a chair, I throw it as hard as I can at the border of the roof top and watch a couple of the wooden legs break off. "Can you stop doing that?" I hear a male's voice say behind me before I turn around startled with my hands up in a fighting position. I'm shocked to realize it's Luka from F4... He snorts as he laughs for a moment, taken back by my demeanor. "There used to be a lot of furniture up here before you started coming here." Luka states. I look at him with an empty stare. He looks me up and down and gives me a saddened look. "Are you going to dry yourself off?" He says while picking up a blanket that was on one of the tables and holding it up in my direction. I stared at him for a moment before rolling my eyes and heading back towards the rooftop door to find somewhere else to hide. As I pass by Luka, we both hear the noise of the rooftop door start to open. Luka grabs my hand and pulls me behind the wall next to him before the first person walks out. It was the 3 mean girls. "Oh, you're here Luka?... Have you seen a girl dripping wet running around?" one of them asks. "No." Luka replies. They remain standing there looking at him and looking around for a few seconds before Luka leans his head forward "don't you believe me?" he asks. "Of course we do! Sorry Luka." Miranda says as they all leave. Luka turns around and faces me. "Here will be a good enough place to hide until after school... If you don't smash things and make a noise." he says with a slight smirk before turning around and heading back into school. Great... Now I'm stuck here until after school dripping wet, I think to myself. I grab the blanket and wrap it around myself before finding the most secluded area to sit and wait it out. Jack is messaging me asking if I made it out. I'm just going to tell him I did... otherwise he'll run around trying to help and probably get himself red carded. I hate lying... But it's for the best. The less people involved in this the better. At least I have all my things, and they can't force me to go to that stupid stadium... Thank God I didn't bring my bike.

It's now 1 hour 45 minutes after school has ended and there's only a few cars left in the staff side of the parking lot. I can't see any student cars; I think the coast may be clear to finally leave. It's getting a little darker outside now, I messaged dad and told him I missed the bus and that I would get something to eat and hop on one of the next one's so not to wait up. I head down stairs and back through the school as quickly as I can, I don't

pass by anyone on the way. I grab my bag from the locker and head for the school exit. I give the area a good observation before continuing outside. I don't see anyone, or any teachers, so I started to speed walk toward the bus stop.

At the corner of the school around the opposite side, a group of 5 boys (F4 minions) were gathered waiting for Zara. "Can we go now!" one says as they are all visibly agitated by waiting and looking for Zara for so long. "Yeah she probably snuck out somehow." Another says. "Jed said he didn't see her leave on any of the cameras though." The main minion Trey demands. "Who cares. I'm hungry." The other replies. "Same, I'm leaving." Another adds. "Fine! Let's just go. We'll get her tomorrow." Trey orders. "Wait a second... Isn't that...her?!" one says pointing to the top side of the car park in the opposite direction. "Looks like today will be payday for us after all." One says smugly as they all laugh and start making their way up to Zara.

I'm walking out of the car park, THANK GOD for that honestly. I've never been so home sick in my life. The bus stop is there, I take a seat and exhale a deep breath of relief. I hear footsteps coming... It's probably just common people walking around, I think to myself, so I confidently don't turn around and continue waiting. And then the footsteps I heard were suddenly all in front of me. Woah... bad call. I thought to myself while slowly looking up to see who it was. It was the minions of course. Then one shines a phone light in my eyes and starts recording me. "Hi Zara, where are you going Zara? Don't leave, we've all been waiting for you." Trey says as the camera man laughs hysterically. "Yeah Zara, we want to celebrate with you!" Another goes while howling like a hyena. As they all laugh, I notice they are all holding cans of spray paint. I wondered what they planned to do with them. One walks towards me and reaches for my bag. I pulled it away from him quickly. "Oooh we got a quick one hey!" Trey mocks while he toys with me. "Alright enough games, let's get this over with. Hold her down and spray her, and you! Burn all her belongings." Trey orders. One guy starts walking towards me and tries to grab me, (as he does this my dad's words go through my head... DON'T FIGHT UNLESS THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE... Before his hand touches me, I grab it and put it into 2 different hand locks. He gasps for a few seconds, then I release him and push him back towards the rest of them. "The heck?" he goes. "Are you getting done up by a girl bro?" one jokes as they all laugh. "He's visibly agitated at this point. He makes a loud grunt before storming back at me. He extends his hand as he approaches. I slapped it away, stood up sharply and booted him in the stomach with all my force. He hit the ground gasping for air, he was winded

badly. I felt kind of bad strangely but serves him right. The others glare at me “GET HER!” one yells, and they all run towards me. I run towards them and do a spinning fly kick across the first guy’s face. I turn to the next one, spin and did a scissor judo kick under his chin. He flies backwards past one of the minions. 2 down, I think to myself. One comes up behind me and puts me in a choke hold while another one tries to approach me from the front with spray paint. I kick the spray paint out of his hand, kick myself up and wrap my legs around his head in a crossed manner. I pull down firmly on my legs, so he flips to the ground. I elbow the guy who still has me in a chokehold and flip him over my head and he collides with the pavement. The camera man is still standing there recording in disbelief. He looks utterly shocked at what has just unfolded. He put his free hand up and pathetically gives me a “don’t hurt me” kind of look. I picked up one of the spray cans off the ground and threw it at his phone. It knocks it out of his hands. He gasps as he picks it back up and runs away. I throw another spray can at the back of his head. He shrieks as it hits him, he falls over and then takes off in another direction. I see my bus approaching, so I pick up my things, step over the wounded minions still groaning on the ground and get on my bus.

Breathing heavily, I take my seat and try to regroup mentally. I hate fighting, I really do. But dad always says, “the best warriors hate war.” So that weirdly comforts me, it’s not like I want to hurt them. I set my alarm and get some shut eye while the bus takes me on the long journey home.

Meanwhile, Jedakiah demands the 5 minions who harassed Zara at the bus stop to come to his house after he received no video to post, or no word from them after they had messaged him that they see her and were about to get the job done. He stands outside next to his pool looking at his phone, the rest of F4 are sitting behind him on pool chairs with a couple girls at their side as their drinking company. “Are they still coming or what?” Elijah asks impatiently. “They said their nearly here.” Jed responds. “What happened? Where’s the video we’re meant to post?” Seth asks. “I don’t know! He said they had complications. They will fill us in when they get here.” Jed snaps. “Alright, just saying. We’ve never had “complications” before.” Elijah adds. A few moments later the 5 boys are escorted in by a worker in Jedakiah’s mansion. “So. Where’s the video?” Jedakiah demands. “We didn’t get it.” Trey timidly responds. Jed takes a few steps towards him. “And why is that exactly?” He says frustrated. “She escaped” ... Trey says quietly looking at the ground. “How did she escape? Why do you all have cuts all over you?

What the hell happened?" Jed demands while grabbing hold of his collar violently. "Where's the video!" He yells in his face. "We don't have it!" Trey responds, squirming in Jedakiah's grasp. "WHY!" Jedakiah demands. "She...

She's freakishly strong." Trey eventually blurts out. Jedakiah looks at him wide eyed. "Are you telling me, you all got beat up by a girl?" Jed asked. The rest of F4 start laughing as they overhear the conversation. "I don't believe you. Give me your phone." Jedakiah snaps as he snatches the camera man's phone out of his hands and goes through it to find any recent videos. He clicks on the latest one and starts watching. The rest of F4 gather behind him and watch, also curious to see the video. As they watch, one of the minions' whispers to the camera man. "As if you didn't delete the video, you idiot!" ...

"I forgot alright!" He whispers back. "Shut up!" Jed snaps at them and continues to watch. F4 gasps at Zara's fighting skills as they watch her fend off his minions. Everyone but Jed is a little impressed. "No way!" Seth laughs. "That's embarrassing." Elijah mocks. Luka just gives a smirk and returns to his seat. Jedakiah smashes the camera man's phone on the ground. "Bring 5 more with you tomorrow and get it done! I want her gone! Now, GET OUT!"

He orders them in a rage. They all leave as quickly as they can from Jedakiah's sight. "Will you just sit down and chill out for a while? There's nothing more you can do tonight so you might as well come and have a drink with us." Seth insists. "What's with this chick huh? Does she think she's won?" Jedakiah scoffs while looking crazy. "Just sit down." Elijah laughs. "Are you really going to send 10 guys to spray paint her tomorrow?" Luka asked. "Why shouldn't I? You seen her; she thinks she's beat us now. Am I supposed to allow this girl to make a mockery out of us?" Jed scoffs. Luka rolls his eyes and looks back at his phone. "Just be careful Jed, you've never given a red card to any girl before. She's just a little girl." Seth playfully says. "Yeah, just don't let this get out of control bro." Elijah agrees. "You guys are annoying, I'm going to bed, go home." Jedakiah tells them as he walks inside. "Why do you think this is getting to him so much?" Seth asked Luka and Elijah. "You know what he's like." Elijah starts. "He doesn't like to be challenged, by anyone." He finishes. "Well, it's getting annoying." Seth complains. "It's always been annoying." Luka adds. "HE'S always been annoying." Elijah says as they all laugh and continue drinking.

I arrive home, dreading having to lie to dad about today, and what's happening at school. I just don't want him to get involved... Dad greets me at the door. "Honey! You're finally home! You missed out on our hang out session today." Dad says sounding a little disappointed. "I know, I'm really

sorry dad. Can we arrange it for another day? I really didn't mean to miss it." I say making a cute puppy face that no one could stay mad at. Dad smiles at me "Sure thing squirt, don't worry about it, we got all the time in the world." He reassures me. "Thanks dad. Do you mind if I skip tea tonight? I'm feeling a little worn out, I kind of just want to have a shower and go to bed." I say trying to sound as tired as possible so I can skip all the daily school questions. "Sure kid." Dad says with a slightly concerned look on his face. "Thanks, good night." I reply as I turn around and make my way upstairs.

I have a shower and lie in bed in the dark, thinking 1000 different thoughts. Will it stop now? Will it continue? Will it get worse? Who knows. All I know is I need my strength now my then ever so brain, please shut up so I can get some rest.

Morning time comes and I'm debating whether I should go to school or stay home. I feel like I didn't get enough sleep... I still feel a bit knackered from fighting all those turds last night. It's been a while since I've had to fight my way out of a situation like that. The last time would have had to of been Baltimore train station last year... Yeah it was. Ah well. What to do ... Maybe I should just go. I can take these turds, what am I running from? I'm not going to quit. No one's going to push me out. Na, I'm going. "Do not fear them." God's word says, so I'm not going to. Dad would tell me the same thing if he were in the loop. I prop myself up from bed and get changed after I mentally amp myself up for what today could bring. I do some stretches and a quick warm up before going downstairs. I head down, dodge dad's sneak attack, take a piece of toast and get ready to scoot out the door. I have to leave earlier now I'm catching the bus, so that doesn't give me a lot of time to hang around in the morning now. "Not taking your bike again sweetie?" Dad asked while I packed a drink bottle in my bag. "Maybe next week, I'm enjoying riding the bus at the moment." I reply. "You kids are strange. Can't wait to get ya license, then as soon as ya do, can't wait to get back on the bus!" Dad chuckles. "I know, I'm weird. Bye, love you!" I say as I hurry out the door to catch the bus. "Love you too sweetie!" Dad yells after me. I hop on the bus and meditate for a while, before pulling out my bible and going through some encouraging passages of scripture to strengthen my mind.

I arrived at school. I'm on guard, I'm walking in. Examining everyone around me, waiting for any sudden movements. No one does anything, they just stare and whisper "There's that girl." I walk to my locker and brace myself for anything that could be in there... There's nothing there. Thank God a breath of relief as I get my books and put my bag in my locker. "Hey Zara!"

Jack says propping up next to me. "What are you doing? You shouldn't be talking to me remember?" I whisper. "I know I know, my lockers here though. Sheesh." He grumbles while opening his lock. "Sorry" I whisper. "I'm just on edge." I end sincerely. "Yeah, I know... I just hope you're okay. I'll meet you behind the school at lunch, okay?" He whispers with a smile. "Deal." I smile back. He closes his locker and heads off to class. I have fencing first up this morning, yay! I think with a grin. I start heading toward the auditorium for the lesson as people stare me down.

I get through the day. And it was great! I had a lot of fun today. Although everyone tried to avoid me and make jokes at me. I happily ignored them and continued with the lessons and tasks at hand. I'm so proud of myself. I give myself a mental pat on the back. I walk towards the locker room to get my things so I can leave. And on the way, ten F4 minions surround me in an empty hallway... "Come with us now. Don't make a scene." One demands. Another one opens a door behind them and a couple others push me into an empty room full of school junk and cleaning items. The camera man gets out his new phone and starts recording again. I look at him with an annoyed expression as if to say, "I should of beat your ass last night." I look around. I see them holding duct tape and cable ties. I'm astonished as how far these turds will go honestly... Flabbergasted! I mentally prepare myself to fight as they all close in around me... The first one takes a leap to grab me, and I punch him in the chest 10 times before upper cutting him and knocking him to the ground. "Everyone! grab her all at once!" one shouts. I try to fight them off, but all of them manage to restrain me. They rip off my blazer, put cable ties around my wrists and wrap duct tape around my mouth and the back of my head. They proceed to rip open my button up navy school shirt. I scream through the duct tape. I'm starting to really freak out now, I can't break free. One of them pulls out a spray can as another pulls out a stanley knife and tries to cut my skirt." I start screaming as loud as I can through the duct tape, praying to God someone hears me. "Are you having fun?" I heard someone say behind the guy pulling at my skirt. The guy turns around, It's Luka. "That's enough." He speaks. "But Jed told us to..." the guy begins. "I said that's enough." Jed cuts him off sternly with a serious look on his face. I've never seen him look angry like that; I think to myself. All the boys obey Luka and head out of the room. I sit there on the floor, with my hands cable tied behind my back, my shirt ripped open and duct tape around my mouth... I stare at the floor motionless; I think I'm a little in Shock to be honest. I hear Jedakiah walking over to me. He knelt down and reached his hand out. I kick off the ground and push myself up against a wall thinking he might do

something himself. He showed me a pair of scissors he had in his hand. "I'm just going to cut the ties okay. I promise I won't hurt you." Luka says in a reassuring soft tone. I looked at him angry and paranoid for a good 10 seconds trying to examine his face and whether I could trust him. I slowly start to swivel around as I keep my eyes on him. He leans in and softly cuts the ties and stands back up. I do up my shirt with the only 2 buttons left and start pulling the duct tape off. Luka sits down on a stool and stares at me. "What do you want?" I snap. "Just leave me alone." Luka looks at the ground lost in thought for a moment and looks back at me. He gets up and starts to head towards the door, he opens it, looks out and sees the 10 guys waiting at the end of the hallway. He turns around and shuts the door behind him again. "Let me drive you home." He says kindly. "What, are they waiting for me?" I laugh. "They won't do anything if you're with me." He confidently states. "Forget it. You probably just want to get my address so you guys can start traumatizing me at my place of residence." I argue. "If we wanted your address, we' would just check the school files." he replies. "Whatever." I mutter. Luka takes a deep breath while proceeding to try to persuade me. "Look, I can't just leave. And something tells me you wouldn't just leave a person after something like that either. I wouldn't be able to sleep well tonight if I did." He takes a step towards me. "Look... I'm not trying to help you. I just don't like this kind of stuff." He ends with a sincere tone. I stare at the wall for a moment and think... Damn, he's right. I wouldn't be able to leave a person if they went through this. Not even if they told me too... Gee he's annoying. "Fine! I need to get my things from my locker first." I say while walking through the door next to him and towards the lockers. He follows behind and waits for me to grab my bag. We walk out of the front exit together and I cautiously enter Lukas green sports car he has parked in his reserved VIP parking spot out the front of the school. Not many people see us leave, most people have left school by now. I give him the directions and slowly begin to doze off. Until suddenly Luka says, "we're here." I prop my head up and look around. Yep, I'm home. Thank God. I pick up my bag from the floor and exit the car. I stare at him confused for a moment, before I reluctantly say "thanks." And shut the door.

I go inside my house and walk straight past dad and Jonah up to my room. They try to speak to me, but I can't speak. I hope dad doesn't come up and try to talk to me I think to myself. Sure enough, a few moments later dad Knocks on the door. I don't answer so he lets himself in. "What's wrong honey?" He says in a serious, yet compassionate tone. "Nothing." I reply. "Do you really think I believe that? You've been up and down since school

started, you have marks all on you and I'm seriously starting to get worried. Zara please... what is going on? You know you can tell me, don't you? I'm not going to "spaz out" on you, or anything." I try not to laugh at dad's attempts to communicate. "it's not a big deal... I'm just having a little trouble with some girls at school. Please don't harp on about it, I'm handling with it." I say confidently so he doesn't press the issue any further." He stares at me for a moment... "Girls? What's their problem?" He asked. "I don't know dad, and I don't really want to talk about it. I just want to go to sleep." I demand. After a long moment of silence, Dad says "Okay honey, we'll talk in the morning. Love you, get some sleep." And closes my door. A tear falls from my eye as I wipe it away and close my eyes.

"What do you mean Luka told you to stop? Did I tell you to stop? Are you an idiot?" Jedakiah says as he hangs up his phone. "What was that about?" Seth asked. "He said Luka stopped them. What is he doing? Why is he helping her?" Jedakiah questions. "Who knows, maybe he felt bad for her." Elijah says. "Why would he feel bad for her, he doesn't even know her." Jedakiah snaps as he calls Luka. "Hello." Luka answers. "What do you think you're doing Luka? Jedakiah demands. "I could ask you the same thing." Luka says. "What do you mean?" Jedakiah replies. "Whatever you're doing, I'm not having charges of sexual assault be traced back to my name, or yours." Luka explains. "Sexual assault? What are you on about?" Jedakiah says. Elijah and Seth sit up in their chairs. They were taking her clothes off Jed." Luka snaps. "That... wasn't part of the plan!" Jedakiah yells. "Whatever, I'm going" Luka says as he hangs up. "What the heck happened?" Seth and Elijah say in unison. "Those idiots!" Jedakiah mumbles as he walks back inside his house.

Day 4, nearly the end of the week. I haven't waited around for a weekend like this for a long time, I loved school. But I just wanted to isolate myself for a couple of days, I'm thinking about taking work off as well. I don't know yet, I just don't want to be around people right now. Dad knocks on the door and lets himself in again. "Squirt? If you want to take today off, you can okay. I personally recommend it. When things in the field were getting too much, we had to retreat, regroup and recuperate as well. So don't feel bad okay, you don't have to be strong all the time." Dad sweetly reassures me. "Thanks dad. I might actually take you up on that offer, just for today." I reply, a little disappointed in myself for taking a mental day off. "No worries honey, I'll bring some breakfast and a coffee up." Dad says before hurrying back

downstairs. I heard dad on the phone telling the school I won't be coming today, as I reposition myself in my bed and get comfortable again. I have breakfast and fall back to sleep for 3 hours. When I finally get up, I go downstairs, and I'm surprised to see dad still lingering. "What are you doing here? I thought you had work?" I scolded. "I did, but I thought I could also use a day off to regroup so here I am. Plus, I wanted to take my baby out for a meal today and cheer her up." Dad says concerned. I'm touched that he would do this though, He really is an amazing dad. I'm so grateful for him.

We went out in the city for ice cream while Jonah was at school. It's a beautiful day; the fresh air is like medicine for my mind. I feel at ease, while me and dad sit in a beautiful green park. "Are they your school shoes?" Dad asked, looking down at my worn-out boots. "Yeah, there comfortable though." I reply. "You shouldn't wear them outside of school, you'll ruin them." He reasons. "There already worn out." I reply. "Well let's go grab a new pair then, you can't wear those to school, The souls are coming off." Dad scorns. He took me to a nice shoe shop. "Look here! Black leather tactical boots \$299! They look great and are also within the school's guidelines for acceptable shoes. What do you think sweetie?" Dad asked. "Can we afford to buy shoes like this? The prices are ridiculous." I argue. I didn't want dad digging into his savings for unnecessary items. "Don't be silly, you need proper shoes for school darlin' we need to keep you up to scratch with the illuminati kids." He jokes. "Great..." I whisper. "Well, try them on!" He demands with excitement. "Fine." I give in with a smile. I try them on, and not going to lie, they are awesome like top quality military boots. "I do love them though." I say admiring how well they feel. "Then its settled, pop em' in the box and let's grab them." Dad orders. I chuckle and roll my eyes as I am taking off the new boots and putting them in their box for purchase. "Thanks dad, you didn't have to do that." I say feeling a little guilty still. "Anything for my champ." He goes while putting his arm around me for a moment. We get some Chinese take-out and head home.

"Zara! I got a victory in my first game tonight!" Jonah cries out to me as we walk in the door. "Nice! Have you done the daily quests yet?" I reply. "Not all of them! Jump in next if ya want!" he says excitedly. "Be right in!" I reply as me and dad unpack our bags. "And don't forget kid, those shoes are JUST FOR SCHOOL. Okay?" Dad repeats. "Yes dad, I knowww." I moan happily as I head into the living room to play Fortnite with Jonah. We game for a couple hours, have tea then go to bed.

As my alarm goes off for school the next morning, I ponder on things for a while, then eventually prop myself up. I get myself prepared for school, with my NEW SHOES and I'm feeling pretty great considering the previous afternoon. But it's the last day of school for the week, I get excited again for fencing lessons today! in last period this time though, so it kind of sucks I have to wait all day until it starts. Hopefully the boring lessons aren't too much of a drag, and hopefully there's not too much harassment today. These boots strangely make me feel ready for war, so whatever they got, they can bring it. I listen to a few Gospel songs to charge my mind and spirit before heading downstairs for breakfast, dodging dad's sneak attack, we laugh and prepare coffee together. "Going to school today then?" dad asks. "I said I would." I say with a smile. "Yeah, I know. I just worry about ya... so if you need another day away from those rich girls troubling you, you just say, okay? And call me anytime, I'll leave work and come to the school immediately." Dad orders. "I will dad, I promise." I smile.

I arrive at school, and Jack greets me. "Hey Zara!" Jack hollers. "I told you not to talk to me at school." I reply. "Ah fine! I'll walk behind you then." Jack says cheerfully as I roll my eyes at his lack of seriousness toward the situation. "How come you logged off so early last night? I was stuck with your little brother; he's annoying on the mic." Jack grumbles. "You're annoying on the mic." I reply. "Whateverz" Jack scoffs. I laugh as I notice he's stealing Jonah's street slang. I start opening my locker and Jack takes a chocolate snack pack out of his bag and starts eating it while leaning up against his locker. "Do you think we could sit next to each other in class today? It's so boring not having you around." Jack moans. "What did I just say?" I reply confused at his brain. "FINE, sheesh... Hey! check this out my dad got me the new Galaxy!" Jack hollers as he tries to get his new phone out of his bag while holding his snack pack. As he pulled it out, he lost grip of the snack pack, and it spilled all over one of my new shoes. "DUDE seriously! Is your brain connected to your body?" I scolded. "Sorry! I'll clean it for you okay!" Jack offers apologetically. "Don't worry I got it!" I groan while I take my shoe off. I get a wet wipe out of my bag and start cleaning it. As I finish wiping the last of the chocolate off, I stare for a few seconds and admire the shoes again. As I do this, a male student runs up to me and smacks the shoes out of my hand, pick it up and runs while throwing it back and forth up the hallway to his friends. "HEY! Give it back!" I yell out at the top of my lungs. Suddenly, I hear everyone around me receive notifications on their phone. I throw my bag in my locker and take off after them. "Zara wait!" Jack hollers as he runs after me. I chase after them, but as soon as I get close enough to

grab one, he throws it to someone else, back and forth they go until we all arrive at the front of the stadium. Jedakiah's standing there, the guy who has my shoe throws it to him. The other members of F4 are leaning against the stadium wall, and multiple students are gathered all around. Great... I think as I slowly start to approach. Every goes quiet... Then Jedakiah hold out my shoe "Isn't this trash?" he asked as everyone around snickered. He holds out his other hand as one of his minions throws him strawberry milk. He looks me in the eyes, and slowly starts pouring it in my shoe... I can't help but be astonished at how childish these blokes are... He laughs as he throws it in a trash can behind him. "You get it now, right?" He snarks as he turns around and walks away. I death stare him as he walks away, then i walk over to the trash can and pull my shoe out. I pour all the milk it has left in it back in the trash and put it on my foot." I can hear everyone start mocking and scoffing around me, but I don't care. I hear footsteps walking up behind me... "Hey freak. Are you really going to wear that trash?" He laughs... I've seriously had enough of this two-year-old turd, he's really going to get it today, I thought, fuming in anger. I spun around while pushing myself off the ground as high as I could while doing a flying kick. I hit Jedakiah right under the chin and he flew backwards, the whole crowd gasped as he hit the ground. I walk up to him and put one leg on each side of his and scruff him by the collar.

"You want me to quit! Is that what you want me to get?! I scream in Jedakiah's face. "I'm going to fight whatever you do. I'll never give up, not to you!" I end loudly while I'm inches away from his face. We stare each other down for a good 10 seconds before a girl from the crowd cries "Jedakiah's being attacked! Jedakiah's being attacked!" People get their phones out and start recording. "What's going on here!" a teacher demands as he enters the scene. I pushed Jedakiah back as I got off him and ran back to the school building. I return to my locker and get what I need for class and start walking there. On the way, I am met with the same teacher that saw the fight outside and he demanded me to come to his office. I tried to reason that I was defending myself and showed him my shoe. He countered that there's no proof of that and that there's only video footage of me, holding him down. He gives me detention for lunch and the rest of next week. I sat in detention that day waiting for lunch to end so fencing class could begin. I'm here by myself. I was shocked, really. The number of turds in this school and I'm the only one in here... I couldn't believe it. I sigh in annoyance and look at my phone, I have a quick look at the school group chat, and someone posted the video of earlier. People were not happy with me... But I did notice a couple of comments that seemed to be supporting me? I looked in confusion and astonishment.

“#TEAMZARA”

“Zara’s so cool. I’ve always wanted to do that!”

“This is getting interesting. LOL”

The comments made me a little encouraged. It’s glad to know at least a few people at this school are on my side secretly through this. I hear the bell go as I smile in excitement and run towards the fencing auditorium. I gather all the protective gear and go to the girl's locker rooms to change. Thank God, they give you shoes for this class. You need specific shoes to stay yourself on the mats, so they are essential. I head back out with my protective helmet in my hand and start warming up.

As Zara is nearing the end of her lesson, F4 walk by to pick up Elijahs coat he left in his previous fencing class. “Hurry up. I want to go.” Jedakiah demands annoyed. “Will you chill out princess? We’ll be on the road in no time.” Elijah replies as he walks into the auditorium and grabs his coat off one of the seats. As he is exiting, he notices Zara sparring with another student. He walks back over to the rest of F4 “Hey! You'll never guess who is sparring right now?” He goes. “Who?” Seth says. “The crazy fly kick chick!” he replied. “No way” Seth gasps. Luka looks over and examines Zara sparring. “I dare you to go and challenge her!” Seth said to Elijah scornfully. “No way, she's a girl, and I'm top ranked in the school, it wouldn't be fair.” Elijah replies. “I dunno man, you're sounding kind of scared” Seth Jokes. “Ha, whatever bro! I just want to get out of here.” he replies amused. “You should do it, challenge her.” Jedakiah agrees. “Dude... seriously?” Elijah protests. “If you want to come with us to my beach house in the Bahama’s these holidays you will.” Jedakiah grins. “Bro... that's low.” Elijah moans. “Oh, just do it! Then we can celebrate the weekend in victory and Jed can finally chill out long enough to have fun again.” Seth grins putting his arm around Jedakiah. “Ah fine! You guys suck.” Elijah laughs. They all start making their way over to the benches as Elijah grabs a helmet and sword and walks over to where Zara is training.

“Can I cut in?” I hear a voice say, while I am focused on defending the other student's attacks. I look over... and surprise, surprise. It’s the rich F4 turds again. “You want to go a couple rounds with the champ, fly kick?” Elijah asked smugly. “Do you guys seriously not have anything better to do?” I reply annoyed. “Of course we do.” Elijah laughs. “Oh good, because anyone would think that you don't.” I say continuing to spar. Elijah interferes with our sparing match, steps in front of my training partner and catches my

sword with his. "I just like challenges." Elijah smiles. I give a sigh of frustration. "Fine. Best out of 3, then get out of my face." I demand. Students start gathering around as we get into position. The teacher comes over and says "Um, young man we are in the middle off a Jr lesson." She protested. "This is part of the curriculum for today. It won't take long."

Jedakiah says to her in arrogance, knowing she basically has to do everything he says. It's a well-known fact he's gotten many teachers fired for challenging him. The teacher walks off annoyed. "Elijah is challenging a Jr!

Elijah is challenging a Jr!" I heard students yell up the corridor, and a multitude of them started swarming in. They all surround us as Seth steps in to be referee. "Now this is going to be a clean fight guys, 3 rounds, no cheating." Seth begins. "Winner takes 1st place rank." Elijah adds. "Oh! What a game changer! You heard him folks! winner takes 1st place in the school's charts! This is going to be a showdown to remember folks. So, grad your

popcorn and LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLEEEEE!" Seth sarcastically commentates. Everyone started cheering and chanting Elijah's name. I say a prayer to God in my head... "Please Lord, don't let me stumble in front of my enemies. Give me your strength and your arm today as I overcome the wicked, amen." I breathe in a couple deep breathes and lower my helmet over my face, Elijah lowers his. We take our stance... "Ready... Set... Fight!"

Seth starts the competition.

As Zara and Elijah are about to begin. Another elite student also in the public eye "Kaleb Gerome" and his band, peeps the commotion and gathers around to watch what is happening.

Elijah and I start slowly circling each other, trying to feel out one another's movements and technique to find the best strategy for attack. He does a sudden jab, and I block it. He laughs hysterically for a moment, like he's toying with me, and continues circling. He charges again doing a double jab this time, and I block them. He circles a little longer, then charges with an 8-jab combo, and I block them all. Elijah smirks curiously and looks at me up and down while he continues circling. He charges again and comes down from the top. He then tries to take out my feet as I jump over the training sword and suddenly lose my balance on the mats. He takes this opportunity to slap me firmly on the back and get a point. I look at him annoyed while he smugly laughs at me. "Not too quick though, are ya?" He grins, thinking he's got me. Seth and Jedakiah smile and joke on the sidelines, Luka takes a deep breath and continues to observe the show match. But little did he know, I'm very observant. I study fighting, and I have examined all his movements and fighting style up until this point. As he's still smirking away, I come in with a

6-jab spinning jump combo and get a point. I grin at him while he looks rather alarmed. Jedakiah's face drops. He scoffs as he continues to circle me again, this time a little more serious. "Next point wins!" Seth announces hysterically as the crowd goes wild. Everyone has got their phone out recording the show down. We circle slowly and then a jab at the same time. We circle a little more, we both attempt a harder jab. Now that I've worked out his defense mode I can make a fully calculated attack. We launch forward at the same time, striking and blocking one another's fast countering attacks. He pushes forward, jumps and comes down hard with one slice of his sword as I roll and dodge the strike, propping up behind him. He turns around just in time to block my strike, and we continue blow for blow. As he pulls back and attempts a large blow across my mid-section, I matrix under it, catch his sword as he comes back for a counter move, and knock it out of his hands. I launch forward on one leg and strike him on the chest. He's speechless as he glares back at me. The whole room goes quiet, and then the school bell rings. Everyone slowly starts cheering in amazement and shock, then Jack runs up to me and picks me up. "YOU DID IT!" He hollers as he spins me around. "That was the coolest thing I had ever seen! He continues in celebration. I thrust him off me as I get swarmed by a bunch of random students congratulating me and asking me who I am. Then Elijah walks over to me and tries to shake my hand. "A worth opponent it seems." I look at Jack and say, "Let's go." I grab my stuff and head to the locker rooms to change out of the training jersey.

"DUDE"... Seth says in astonishment. Luka smiles, he looks pleased that Zara was able to win. Jedakiah was enraged, he was sick of Zara making them look bad and wanted her gone. Elijah walks back over to the rest of F4 and Seth gives him a humorous look. "DONT START." Elijah smirks. Seth burst out laughing "What happened? We were meant to spend this weekend in victory!" he jokes. Jedakiah storms off. "Look what you've done now, we're going to have to put up with that all weekend." Seth says pointing at Jedakiah. Luka chuckles under his breath. "Oh, he'll be right! What about me? I'm the one that just got put to shame by a Jr girl in front of the whole school. That video is going to go viral. AND i lost my ranking place." He moans. "Humiliating, I agree. But it's the weekend. can we go and party now please?" Seth complains. "Fine. Your buying!" Elijah playfully demands. "FINE, LOSER." Seth continues to joke. Elijah starts chasing him as Luka follows behind them and chuckles at their play fighting.

As Jack and I are walking out of school he asks to come over and celebrate with me. I reluctantly agreed and we both got on the bus to my house. With Jack clapping on about the sword fight the entire way. We finally arrived at my house and threw our bags inside the front door and headed into the kitchen. "You hungry?" I ask. "Famished." he replies. "Ham and cheese toasties good?" I ask. "Good" he nods in approval. "Oh, and hey, when my dad gets home, don't mention what's happening at school okay" I say with a look of seriousness. "Yeah, I know, I won't, I won't, chill." he replies. "I just feel like I need to repeat things to you since you don't seem to hear me the first time." I state giving him a sideward look. "Fair call. Can I load up the game?" Jack asked. "Sure, I'll be in in a minute." I spoke. We played Fortnite for a couple hours. Jonah joined in when he got home and dad ended up having to work a late shift at the auto shop so Jack left before he arrived anyway. Me and Jonah made our selves some noodles for dinner and headed to bed. I heard dad open the door and check in on us before grabbing a bite to eat and taking himself to bed as well.

The next morning, I woke up strangely satisfied. Satisfied that God had helped me put those turds to a public shame in front of everyone. I wish I could tell my dad about it; he would be so proud. Anyway, I get myself up and ready for the weekend ahead. I have work this afternoon then motocross tonight. But at least I have the morning period to relax a little. Jonah and I played a few games of Fortnite before starting some house chores. Dad started work early this morning, so it's up to us to keep the household running smoothly while he's gone. I do a couple loads of washing, do the dishes and tidy my room. The only thing left to do is to take out the trash. I check the time on my phone to see how much time I have left before putting it back in my pocket. "At least I can drive my bike to work today" I think to myself happily. No F4 hoodlums to trash my bike, nope not today. Thank God I can relax for a little while... I grab the bin bags out of me and Jonah's room and the bathroom before putting them all in the large kitchen bin and securing the bag end. I carry the trash bag out through the front door and on to the main street in front of my house. As I am doing this, I notice a couple of black vans oddly parked across the road. I look at them curiously for a moment, before someone sneaks up behind me and chloroform's my mouth, I pass out nearly instantaneously.

CHAPTER 3

The Sheep Are Led to the Slaughter



I start to wake up slowly, I can feel people fiddling with my clothes and hair. I flinch a few times before opening my eyes... There's a group of what seems to be women workers in maid uniforms attending to me. I sat up abruptly from where I was lying. I'm wearing a short, long-sleeved, lace gold dress with a high neck, I also have on jewelry which looks expensive. I push myself off the table and try to stand up, but I have black heels on which nearly make me lose my balance. The maids look at me in surprise. "Um, what is going on! Where the heck am I!" I demand. One of the maids' steps forward calmly and says, "Please Mam, we're just getting you ready for your meeting

with the Master." She claims. "Master? What Master? Whoever it is, I don't care. Where's my phone?" I protest. "Please Mam, try to calm down. The Master will be here in a minute." The maid replied. "Where's my clothes and where's my phone?!" I demanded impatiently, taking the heels off my feet so I could walk. "Mam, please put the shoes back on. You need to look your best to meet the Master." She smiles. "Who is this bloody Master?" I ask. "He'll be here in a moment. Please put the shoes back on Mam. You will receive your belongings back as soon as you're done." She explains. All the maids start to walk out, "Hey wait a second!" I protest as I try to follow them out, but they lock the door behind them, and I am stuck in some large living room. Surely, it's a mansion, no one's roofs are this high and decorum this luxurious. I'm taken back by my surroundings, and storm around with the heels in my hand. I've never worn heels, so I am not going to start now in this weirdo's home. Plus, I want to be able to defend myself from any attack if necessary. But the way I'm feeling, this guy is the one who is going to have to defend himself from me. I'm absolutely infuriated, and these stupid clothes are making my mood worse. I walk past a large mirror on the wall and catch a glimpse of myself. My hair is done, my make up is done, I look like a lady. I glare at myself totally weirded out. "You like it?" I hear a familiar voice from behind me say. I turn around... and surprise, surprise. It's the rich F4 turd again. "You... What the hell do you think you're doing?" I demand. "What, don't you like it?" Jedakiah replies while pointing at my get up. "Would look better with the shoes though." He smirks. "Answer the question!" I continue.

"What does it look like I'm doing? I'm negotiating." He explains. "Negotiating?" I scoff. "Yes, negotiating. Your wearing 10 million dollars right now, oh, including this." Jedakiah says as he throws me a set of car keys.

"You can keep everything. IF, you record a public apology and state you were wrong about fighting F4." He demands. I started to laugh; he looked at me in confusion. "You want me to apologize to you? Wow, that's delusional. Do you think I want all this junk? This dress is ugly, I can't wear heels, and I don't have a car license." I reply. "Sell them then. They are worth more than you could make in a lifetime." he snarls. I give him a blank look again as he tries to hand me his phone. "All you have to do is record the video, and you can stay in school too." Jedakiah finishes proudly. I scoff in amazement for a moment. "Are you stupid? Or stupid? Where's my clothes and where's my phone? I want to leave." I demand as I'm taking off the jewelry and Rolex. "What... what are you doing?" Jeremiah asked baffled. "I want to leave. Keep your crap, I'm not apologizing to you." I state firmly as I try to push open the locked doors around the room. "Just take the phone and record the video!" he demands while trying to put the phone in my hands. I push it away and he

tries to put it in my hand again. "Just take it!" Jedakiah continues to demand. "No! Get the hell away from me you freak!" I yell as we fight over putting the phone in each other's hand. I then lost patience with his persistence and grabbed him around the neck with both hands and started strangling him around the room. "Give me back my stuff!" I shouted. "Record the video!" Jedakiah struggles to get out, being strained by my grasp. Then a different maid came into the room, "Master what are you doing? Madam is nearly here, please get yourself ready." she says abruptly as she walks back out. Me and Jedakiah continue wrestling for a moment before I push him up against a wall forcibly. "DO NOT make me hurt you!" I yell furiously as we are nose to nose. I nudged him back against the wall one last time before turning around and attempting to escape again. "Hey! Come back here!" Jeremiah shouts after me as I manage to barge open a door. Islam it back in his face and run up the hallway and saw the maid who was in the room with me. I go up to her and grab her by the collar "I'm done. Give me my stuff NOW!" I demand. She gives me a frightened look, then says "Follow me." She takes me to a room up the hallway and hands me my belongings. I got changed out of the circus I was in, grabbed my phone and started running around, trying to find an exit. It looked like Hogwarts in there. I finally found a worker and got them to show me to the front door. Unreal, what a freaking lunatic honestly... I say to myself while storming down the front stairs. I turn around for a moment and glimpse the entirety of the Estate I just walked out of... WOAH. What a place. How powerful are these people? I ponder. I pull my phone out and try to think of someone to call to pick me up, as I don't have enough money to catch a cab until payday. I can't call dad; he will freak out and ask too many questions. Jack is away at his dad's shack and Miles is working... I'm going to have to call TJ from bike club, he doesn't work so he should be available. I call him up and He and Joseph come and get me. "Just what are you doing in this part of town hey?" TJ asked winding down the window of his car while they both chuckled that I'm on an elite landmark. "Don't ask." I reply frustrated. "Woah okay, get in weirdo." TJ replies. "Your weirder than me." I grunt getting in the backseat. "So where are we going?" Joseph asked. "The music shop, I have work. I'll pay you back I promise." I assure him. "Don't worry about it. This makes up for that time you had to transport me home drunk." Tj chuckles as he looks back at me. That was another annoying experience I'd rather forget. I finally arrive at work, "sorry I'm late." I say to Miles as I walk in. "You literally wouldn't believe the morning I've had... Do you have a spare work shirt laying around?" I ask. "Yeah, there's one in the back. Probably a little big but it will do the job." He goes. "SOOO, tell me about this unbelievable morning you've had?" Asher

asked intrigued. "I don't think I should tell you. You will try and get me to file a report, and I can't because then dad will find out from the police." I state.

"Woah, hold on a second, police? Zara what in the world happened this morning?" Asher asked concerned. Miles looks up from the computer interested. I give her a sideways look. "I promise I won't say anything and won't make you go to the police, okay? Just tell me." She scolds. I looked over to Miles and gave him the same look. He makes a "zipping his lips" action with his hands. "Fine. Jedakiah chloroformed and kidnapped me, then tried to bribe me with money to apologize." I say as Miles spits out his coffee. "WHAT THE HECK?" Asher gasps. "Chloroform?" Miles says. "But I turned it down, so if you don't hear from me, I've probably been abducted again." I state. "Where do you kids get chloroform?" Miles asked, seriously shocked. "Never mind about that! Zara, this is getting dangerous. Maybe you should just come to my school where its safe from offspring of the illuminati." She claims. "I'm not letting them push me out of that school. I love the school; I just can't stand them... Is all." I reason. "I'm not going to lie Z, I'm a little scared for you." Asher continues. "I'll be fine. I promise." I reassure her.

As we left work that day and waited at the bus stop to attend motocross together, I saw Luka across the street looking at a billboard of a well-known girl who used to attend our school a couple of years ago. I look at him curiously for a moment before Asher notices me looking and says "Woah, good spot, hottie alert." She giggles. "No. He's not." I state sharply. "Are you blind! she exclaims. He's like a beautiful rose on a Saturday night!" She jokes. "And he's also one of them." I claim. "Them? Like... THEM, THEM?" she asked, shocked. "Yes. THEM THEM." I repeat. "Ew, I mean gross. What a terrible site let's look away quick! He's lucky I don't go over there and beat his ugly ass!" she scoffs. I look at her and chuckle. "Come on, let's just go." I say as the bus pulls up.

When Zara and Asher arrive at the track, Joseph and TJ come over to greet them. Also at the track is Kaleb Gerome, the band member. Who recognizes Zara from the competition she had with Elijah the previous day. He turns to his little brother, who is all dressed up in motorbike gear and says "Hey, who's that girl over there?" as he points to Zara. "That's Zara. She's cool, she always gives me pointers and helps me on the track." His little brother Ryan replies happily before starting his bike and taking off.

Me and Asher hang around Joseph and TJ for a little while and chat with a bunch of other riders before me and Joseph take off to grab our motocross

bikes we pay to keep stored at the club grounds for a small weekly fee. We gear up and take off to the stunt track to train. As we're finishing up, TJ and Asher jog over to us "Hey! Guys, party tonight. You down?" TJ asked excitedly. "Yeah, it should be good. Sounds like the whole club is going." Asher adds. "Sounds good, just need to change first." Joseph replies. "Nah I'm good. I'm tired," I say. I didn't really party. I didn't drink nor was I interested in socializing around a bunch of drunk people, so I didn't accompany them much to gatherings. "You always say that!" TJ protests. "Give her a break, she's had a rough day." Asher scolds. "Ah, fine! Your loss, come on Joseph." TJ says as he walks off. "Will you be here tomorrow?" Joseph asked me. "Yeah, I'm going to pop by after work for a bit." I reply. "Alright, I'll see you then." Joseph smiles as he follows behind TJ. Asher walks over and puts her arm around me, "he's so into you." she laughs. I roll my eyes and continue taking off my gear. "So, you don't mind if I head to the party then?" Asher asked. "Go, I'll see you tomorrow." I smile. "Okay, but if anything else happens you make sure you call me, okay?" She demands. "Promise." I reply as I wave her off. As I'm walking out of the bike track, a flash car pulls up next to me and buzzes down their window. "Your Zara, right?" Kaleb says. "And... you are?" I ask suspiciously. "Hey Zara!" I hear a voice in the back seat say. Then I saw little Ryan pop his head over the front seat and look out the window. "It's me!" Ryan announces over excitedly. "Oh, Ryan! Hey, what are you up to?" I reply relieved. "Oh nothing. Where ya going?" Ryan asked curiously. "Just home." I smile. "Do you want a ride?" Kaleb offers. "Yeah! We'll take you home Zara!" Ryan continues adorably. "Thanks, but it's alright, the bus stop is just around the corner. Plus, my place is a while from here." I say happily. "Aw come on Zara! We don't mind!" Ryan states. "I agree. I want to talk to the chick who beat Elijah yesterday." Kaleb grins. I look at him for a moment, then roll my eyes and give a slight laugh that he had seen that. "Fine." I say and get in the car. "So, where we headed?" Kaleb asked. "South Baltimore." I reply. "Woah, rough neighborhood." Kaleb jokes. "Tell me about it." I smirk. "So, what's your story crazy chick?" he asked, sounding genuinely interested. "Not much to tell. Just a small-town girl that got a scholarship to an elite Academy, and the 4 psycho's that seem to run it are trying to make me quit." I reply. "Ah yes, the red card." He mocks. "Have you ever received it?" I ask. "Nope, I'm not a troublemaker like you." He jokes. I give him an annoyed look before he looks back at the road and continues driving. "What classes are you taking?" Kaleb continues to ask. "Um, dance, music, history, literature, jewelry, metal work and fencing." I reply. "What kind of music do you play?" he asked. "Just piano. I realize a lot of the other students play at least 4 different

instruments and speak 4 different languages so I'm a little behind on the elite education. I sing a little as well, but only at home or church." I joke. "Why don't you sing at school?" he asked intrigued. "Nerves, I guess. Too much pressure to do something with it, and stage fright." I add. "He laughs. "Everyone has stage fright at first." He smiles. "What about you, what classes do you take?" I ask. "Mainly just the music classes, and the essential ones." he replies. "So, you're a musician then?" I ask. "Yeah, you could say that." he chuckles. "What do you play?" I continue to ask. "Drums, guitar, harp, piano, but mainly, I sing." He says as he gives me a playful look. "Ohh okay, so that's why you're interested." I joke. "A little. It's always interesting to hear other people's perspectives on your own profession." He smiles. We talked all the way to my house; he actually seems half decent, for being a student at the school, most of them are stuck up and won't speak to you. Ryan was asleep by the time we arrived at my house. "Thanks a lot for this." I say to Kaleb quietly. "You're welcome." He smiles back at me. I shut the door and head inside, I'm so hungry.

The next morning, I woke up early to start the morning shift at work. Asher greets me as I come in with a big grin on her face. "What? I ask. "Oh nothing... just that I saw you get in J Kaleb's car last night." She smirks. "How do you know him?" I ask. "Everyone knows him." She replies. "He's like social media famous in this area for being the lead singer of an up-and-coming punk band. His family owns shares in the music industry or something." She adds. "No way... He didn't tell me." I reply a little surprised. I'm not on social media much. Unless I'm uploading new videos or photos from motocross. "Get in the know please!" Asher demands. "You don't even know half the cool people that go to your school." she adds. "that's because half the people at school aren't cool... Anyway, how was the party last night." I ask. "It was okay, but TJ got way too drunk way too quick. Complete turn off. Why can't any non-mutant boys like me?" She groans. I laugh and continue working. After we had finished for the day Joseph and TJ picked us up and we all went to the motocross track for a while. Me, TJ and Joseph ride the track and do stunts together for a couple hours while Asher socializes with the rest of the people at moto club. After we finish up, we all get into Tj's Hilux, and he drives us all home. I get inside, greet dad and Jonah, grab a bite to eat and head to bed. I've had an exhausting weekend and I'm dreading what could happen yet again at school tomorrow... I try to get some rest.

The next day, I got up, went downstairs, dodged dad's sneak attack and played a few games of Fortnite with Jonah before getting ready for school.

Dad even had a 10-minute training spar in the backyard with me and Jonah before we left. I had a great morning. On the bus I listen to Gospel music and shut my eyes until the bus arrives at school. Jack greets me as usual, until we get into school, and then we separate so he doesn't get any unwanted attention from the wrong people for being around me. We start the day; I'm in a cheerful mood. Dance class is on today, that always makes me feel good. I get through the boring classes and lunch begins. Jack texts me and asks if he and Ruth can eat with me on the roof top. I replied that I will be there in 5. I suppose that's okay, no one will see us up there, it should be safe. I smile as I start making my way to the roof top with my lunch, thanking God no trouble has come to me today yet. Maybe Jedakiah finally gave up after he couldn't bribe me? I hope so, I'm tired of dealing with it, I want to ride my bike to school again. Suddenly, every student's phone around me began receiving notifications. I check my phone quickly to see what is going on, and in the schools, group chat I see 2 videos posted and a caption that reads "Two red cards have just been given. Second year Jr's Jack Taylor and Ruth Jethro." The two videos show them both being man handled and taken from the locker area by a group of students. I know where they are taking them, to the old stadium behind the school. I gather myself together, throw my lunch in the trash, zip my phone in my skirt pocket and start running to the stadium.

Jedakiah and the rest of F4 sit on the lounges in the middle of the stadium waiting for Jack and Ruth to be brought in. Except for Luka. He is standing off to the side on the stairs, not wanting to be there, but not wanting to leave in case something bad happens. Jedakiah's minions bring Jack and Ruth through the back entrance and throw them in the puddled water gathered in lots around the stadium ground. They also get trash cans and empty the rubbish over both of their heads. Jedakiah stares aimlessly at the entrance, waiting for Zara to come and try to help them. One of the minions takes an electric shaver out of his pocket and turns it on. "How about we cap them!" The main minion yells as the crowd of students in the stadium cheer. Kaleb and his band members enter the stadium and sit in the grandstand curious to see what is about to happen. As the main minion is holding Ruth's hair up, Zara enters through the back entrance. Jedakiah's head props up as he drew to attention.

I ran into the stadium. I see Ruth and Jack on their knees in the mud while a group of other students hold them down. I also see a guy holding Ruth's hair

with what looks like a razor in the opposite hand. I see red. I run, and just as I leap off the ground, the guy with the razor hears my footsteps and turns around. I pull back on my upper body as hard as I can and release a full king hit right down on the side of his face. The razor flies from his hand, he's out cold instantly. I turn around and look at the minion holding Jack. I start pacing towards him, "Let go now." I demand. "I don't think so freak." He laughs. I walk up and boot him fair in the stomach, he falls to the ground heaving. "Enough!" Jedakiah shouts. He picks up the razor off the ground and walks towards me. He turns it on and holds it out in front of me. "If you shave your own head, I'll let your friends go." He snarls as he stares me dead in the eyes. He holds out the razor, I take it out of his hands. I look at it for a moment before smashing it on a bit of concrete on the ground. I took a couple steps towards Jedakiah. "This is child's play." I mock. "Whatever issue you have with me, is between you and me alone. Attack me, fight ME." I yelled in his face. He stares at me for a moment before smirking, "You want a fight? You'll get a fight." He declares before he turns around and exits the stadium. F4 follows him, Luka shoots me a friendly smirk before he turns around and follows the rest of them. I turned around and knelt down next to Ruth and Jack and made sure they were okay. I'm a little nervous as to what Jedakiah means by that... But I worry about helping my friends for now.

As Zara is helping Ruth and Jack, Kaleb finishes examining the scene, has a laugh with his band members about what just went on and then they all leave the stadium.

Jack, Ruth and I head straight for the lockers and then to the office to clock out early with permission from our parents. We didn't tell the school about the situation, but we had to fill out parents in a little in order to get permission to leave. My dad understood because I've made him aware that I'm having problems at school. But Jack and Ruth's parents aren't happy that other students are making them feel comfortable and are pressuring them to come forward to the school. We all wait outside the school grounds as we wait for our parents to come and get us. "Well, that was fun." Jack jokes. "Fun? I still have tuna from the trash in my hair." Ruth snaps. "Oh, come on. You still smell pretty though." Jack laughs. "Are you guys going to school tomorrow?" I ask. "I don't think so. I might wait it out a week until people forget who I am again." Ruth declares. "Might as well. My parents are more annoying than F4." Jack replies. I can't help but chuckle at Jack's optimism. "You know, you should probably just chill for at least one day. Stuff like this is mentally draining, you don't want it to overwhelm you" I say concerned. "Ahh don't worry about me, I'll be right. But if you think it's best to take a

mental day then I'll take your advice rabbi." He smirks. "Good. One less day I have to worry about you. Talk to you later, my dad's here." I say. Jack and Ruth both wave their goodbyes as I hurry off to get in dad's car.

When dad and I arrive home, he spares me any tedious talks and offers to order pizza. I happily agree, take a seat on the sofa, put on my headset and start gaming. Jonah arrives home just in time for pizza and joins me in 2 player mode. Dad lets us game until 10pm then reminds us to go to bed for school.

The rest of the week at school was eerily quiet... Too quiet. I hadn't heard a peep out of F4 or anyone else in the school. It's now Friday afternoon and I'm on the way to work, I'm still not riding my bike, so I caught the bus. "Zara! Did anything happen today? Are you okay?" Asher hollers as I walk into work. "No, nothing has happened. But I've been feeling a chill in the air all week." I reply confused. "What do you mean?" Asher asked. "I don't know... I just don't feel like it's over yet, so I'm on my guard." I state. "Good! You need to be! Crazy kids... and make sure you don't get chloroformed this time." Miles snaps. "I won't if I can help it." I smirk. "Good! Anyway, you kids get to work we got a big night tonight, the new stock came so one of you start unboxing while the other stocks the shelves." Miles orders as we get started.

After work Asher and I head over to the moto club and hang out there until late, since it's a weekend. I like to practice every chance I get, there's no good tracks or jumps near my house to practice on, so I make the most of every visit and lesson. After I finish a long stunt practice with Joseph and a few of the other guys, I park my bike back in the hire shed and find Asher. "Yo! You were a maniac tonight." Asher says as she fist bumps me. "What? I had some steam to let off." I reply. "Some steam alright, you made everyone else look like amateurs!" Asher laughs. "Hey you guys! The clubs having a shin dig tomorrow for old Alf's 50th you in?" TJ asks as he runs up to us. (Alf is one of the men who run the motocross track) "Sure, I was going to come back to practice tomorrow night anyway, so I'll see you all there." I said. "I'll be there too then." Asher adds. "Nice! See you guys then!" TJ says, then runs back to the club shed to everyone else. "I gotta catch the bus, I gotta go. Call you tomorrow." I say to Asher as I start to walk out. "You better! Bye!" Asher replies.

The next night, Asher and I got ready at her house before the shin dig and then headed over together in a cab. When we arrive Joseph and TJ greet us at the gate and walk in with us. "Hey, did you guys hear? Alf's going to have a stunt competition tonight to raise money for the Jr's. 50 bucks to enter."

Joseph explains. "Cool, I'm in." I reply. "Sweet! We'll go and sign up now then." TJ says as he guides us over to the counter to pay. After we signed up for the fundraiser, we headed over to Alf to greet him and wish him a happy birthday. He's happy to see us all and asks if we'll be in the competition. We all confirm, and he happily announces it will begin after the BBQ in about an hour, so to prepare and go for a practice run after a feed. We all head over to the BBQ area outside and grab a burger and a drink and socialize with the other club members there for a while. We eventually make our way over to the hire shed and grab our bikes and start to prepare for a practice run to make sure our bikes are running smoothly and that there are no defects in the track. After a little while, Alf takes the mic and announces the start of the competition and tells everyone to take their place. "Alright, now i want a nice, clean competition. No dangerous stunts that haven't been practiced and performed accurately, let's set a good example for the kids hey! With that all said, have fun and put on a good show! Let the games begin!" Alf hollers to the crowd. As he finishes the announcement, the first contender takes off. Flies up the dirt jump and does a double backwards flip and lands it perfectly. The crowd goes wild as we all take to the jumps one after another.

As Zara is performing, Kaleb is watching from the sidelines with his little brother and cannot take his eyes off Zara. Seriously shocked and impressed at her stunt skills.

As Alf winds up the last round of the competition, he asks the judges to tally their scores. "And the 2 winners of the 2024 motocross fundraiser who both scored equally are! Zara and Joseph! Give it up for these two guys, well done!" Alf concludes as the crowd cheers for our accomplishment. Joseph puts his arm around me and scruffs my hair "You trying to beat me hey?" Joseph plays. "Always." I laugh as we both head over to our bikes and return them to the shed. "You hanging around for a bit longer?" Joseph asked. "Nah, I was going to head out. School tomorrow." I reply. "Yeah, no worries, see you Tuesday then? He asks. "Yep." I smile. I say my goodbyes to Asher and the rest of the guys and start making my way over to the bus stop. As I sit on the seats and wait with my headphones on, I hear a car approach.

"Want a lift crazy chick?" Kaleb says through his car window. I chuckle slightly "where's Ryan?" I ask. "He wanted to hang around with everyone else for a bit longer." Kaleb replies. "It's alright. I'll just bus, thanks anyway." I smile. "Just get in." He says with a friendly tone while giving me a look. I stare at him for a moment, and then give in... I smirk at his annoyingly cute persistence and get in the car. "Where on earth did you learn to ride like that?" Kaleb asked. "My dad got me my first bike at 6 and I've been learning

in clubs ever since.” I reply. “Wow, you’re like insane, seriously. I had to look away a couple times, I don’t know how you do all that stuff.” He laughs. I smiled at how shocked he was, and we talked again, all the way to my house. As we pull up Kaleb asks, “What are you doing next weekend?” I look at him a little surprised for a moment. “I haven’t made any plans yet. Why?” I ask. “Well, it might be a little premature in the friendship. But my mother has decided to throw me an ultra-glow event for my birthday. I don’t like to name drop, but she organized Post Malone to perform. It will be a pretty fun night; you should be there.” Kaleb says smiling at me. “Why do you want me to come? You don’t even know me.” I reply confused. “I know. But I also can’t help but notice all the trouble you’re going through at school with the red card. I think this is just what you need, a night to chill out. And enjoy a free live show.” He answers happily. I smiled, slightly surprised that he would even care let alone have sympathy for me. “I’ll think about it. Thanks” I say genuinely. I exit his vehicle and wave goodbye; he waves back, and I head inside. “There’s my little champ!” Dad says as I walk in. “How did you go at the competition? Joseph’s dad said Alf was doing a fundraiser.” He adds. “Yeah, he did, it went well. Joseph and I drew a tie.” I explain. “Ha! Always the way, you and Joseph have been head-to-head ever since you were kids! Ah good on ya’s.” Dad says. “Can I go to the next competition dad?!” Jonah asked, a little disappointed that he missed this one, he loved watching them. “Of course, buddy, this one was just a little short notice is all. The whole fam will go to the next one hey!” Dad assures him. “Okay!” Jonah replies excitedly. “Hey Zara, want to have a few rounds?” Jonah asked while holding out the Xbox controller. “Sure.” I reply as I take the controller and have a seat. After an hour of gaming, I head up to take a shower and then head to bed feeling accomplished, wondering what tomorrow will bring.

I wake up early, get ready for school and head downstairs. I doge dad's sneak attack as I enter the kitchen, have a laugh with dad and Jonah and pack my bag. “Have a good day champ! Call me if anything happens again, okay? Love you.” Dad says concerned. “I will, love you too. Bye Jonah!” I say as I walk out the door and head to the bus stop.

I arrive at school; Jack greets me with a fist bump quickly before we have to separate for the day, so he doesn’t cop trouble for hanging around me. “How was your weekend me lady?” Jack weirdly asked. “Me lady?” I repeat. “I’m practicing my sweet talk for class, I’m saving Ruth a seat today.” He smiles creepily. “Okay Shakespeare.” I cringe. “She will be my girlfriend one day you watch! Slow and steady wins the race they say!” Jack defends. “Alright, I’m not going to argue with your ingenious methods.” I reply. “Thank you!

Anyway, time to scoot. I'll see you after school!" Jack says as he hurries off in front of me. The day was going well, it was starting to feel like I didn't even have a red card... I couldn't help but notice a group of girls who kept staring at me though. I couldn't help but get an eerie feeling about it, but I ended up brushing it off and getting on with my day. At lunch I grabbed a lunch tray and juice and took a seat by myself in the cafeteria. A few moments later Jed came and sat down at my table opposite me. "Um, what are you doing?" I asked, annoyed. "Don't question me! I thought about it and I'm a grown man! I make my own decisions, and I sit where I want! They can give me a red card I don't care, I'm sitting here" Jack snaps. I look at him, a little surprised at his boldness. "Okay." I say as I continue eating. "Okay? Really?! I mean, yes. Of course." Jack replies awkwardly, not expecting me to let it go. "How did your romantic attempts at Ruth go this morning?" I ask. "Good! I think it's safe to say I'm on her radar now." He smiles at the ceiling, like a daydreamer. "Sounds promising then." I chuckled. "Darn tootin'! Hey, have you tried the new torte? Have a bite it's Black Forest!" Jack explains as he plops a spoonful of cake on my plate. "Wow, it's good." I say after trying a bite. "Told you! Try the other food don't just have salad grandma." Jack jokes as I roll my eyes and continue eating. As we eat together, Jack's focus is suddenly drawn to a bunch of students locking the cafeteria doors, and then another set of students looking at the CCTV cameras with a laptop in their hands. "Okay, there off." He hears one of them say. Then a cold feeling comes over him... "Um, Zara. Something is happening." Jack says. I hear the sudden drop in his voice and look up at him. "What's happening?" I reply a little alarmed. "People just locked the doors and turned off the cameras." He says while giving me a concerned look. He looks up to F4's special seating area and Jedakiah is staring dead at Zara. "Jed's staring at you... I'm getting a bad feeling about this Zara." Jack says worried. "It's okay, just chill out." I say trying to calm him down.

As Jack and Zara are speaking, Elijah and Seth join Jedakiah on the balcony. "So, what's this 'big event' we had to be here for huh?" Elijah asks as he puts his arm around Jedakiah. "The shows about to begin." Jedakiah smirks. "Oh no, I know that look. What did you do now?" Seth says. "Nothing. Just giving her the fight she asked for." Jedakiah replies. "DUDE!" Elijah and Seth both say in unison. "Bro, seriously. Can we move on from this now?" Elijah asked. "I agree. It's making us look pathetic picking with a girl like this." Seth adds. "Alright. After this, I will stop." Jedakiah says. Elijah and Seth look at each other and take a deep breath. "Are you doing this today because Luka's not here?" Seth asked. "Yes. I don't need him coming to help her again, do I?

You know how long it took me to organize this?" Jedakiah snaps. "How many of them are there?" Elijah asked. "37 girls." Jedakiah smirks. "I hope you know what you're doing Jed." Seth complains. Jed goes quiet and starts to focus on the scene that's about to unfold.

Suddenly, the sound of large double doors is made, and a multitude of footsteps follow. "Zara, there's a bunch of people coming. There's a lot of them... Oh my God, Zara..." Jack moans desperately. I looked at him and put my cutlery on the table. "Get out of here." I demand. "Zara... I am not leaving you." Jack pleads. "Jack!" I snap. "I said go. I'll be okay." I assure him. He looks around as a multitude of girls start to surround the table. I stare at Jack and give him a look, he looks back at me like he's about to cry, and then slowly removes himself from the table.

By now the entire cafeteria is focused on the group of girls standing over Zara. Kaleb is looking over concerned about what is happening. Jack tries to call the school office and one of Jedakiah's minions smashes his phone on the ground.

I sit there with my hands in my lap, taking meditative breaths in and out to control my focus and senses so I can react at any given moment. "Zara! We've been looking all over for you." One of the means girls Miranda says. "Yeah, we wanted to hang out with you so bad." Sasha says sitting down in the seat that Jack was just in. "So, we shut down the cafeteria!" Miranda adds as everyone laughs. "Aw, don't you want to be our friends Zara?" Sasha mocks. "She's obviously ill, maybe she just needs a little vitamin C?" Miranda asked sarcastically as she picked up my juice box off my tray and started slowly pouring it over my head. Everyone in the cafeteria starts laughing. I try to contain myself; I really don't want to fight, I just want to see if they will eventually go away. "Do you feel better now? Or do you need a little more?"

Miranda asked, faking a concerned voice. I see one of her friends in my peripherals handing her another drink. She starts opening it and then leans over to pour that one over my head as well. But as she goes to... I jump up from my seat with catlike reflexes, grab her hair with one hand and smash her head down on the table. She instantly passes out. Then Sasha stands up "You bitch!" she screams as she runs around the table to attack me. As she approaches, I snatch a lunch tray off the table and upper cut her under the chin with it, then again across the left side of her face and she hits the ground. Another one runs at me; I lift my leg up and stomp her right in the chest. 2 more ran at me, I pulled back and did a backwards spinning kick to one of the girls and punched the other girl in the throat twice before doing a

full punch to her face and dropping her. A chair hits me in the back, I gasp and turn around, readying myself for the next attack. Girls circle all around me, some of them have mops, brooms, buckets and other things in their hand. A lot of them start throwing things in the cafeteria at me. A girl with a broom charges at me and starts swinging it in a strategic manner, trying her hardest to hit me. I think I recognized her from fencing class, that would explain why she's so good. I dodge 2 combo's and grab the broom. I pull it from her hands and throw it at F4's balcony. "How dare you!" she screams as she starts running towards me. None of her hits or kicks land and I put her down. As I do, I am kicked from behind and lose my footing. A bucket is thrown at me, then a girl tries to hit me with a bat. I caught it as I was on the ground, thrust it back in her face then stood up as I spun throwing it against the wall. A large girl comes up behind me and puts me in a chokehold. Her grasp was so tight my legs were coming off the floor. I started to seriously choke for a moment. Then regained my focus, controlled my breathing and put her hand in a hand lock. She immediately let go and I turned around and faced her. As this is happening, objects are still being thrown at me and striking me in on the body. She charges at me and throws a few haymakers before I catch her off guard and headbutt her backwards. I followed through with an 8-combo punch to the chest and a final blow to the face. She fell down, out cold. As this happens Miranda wakes up from being unconscious, looks at me in fury and smashes a bottle over the back of my head. I stagger for a moment as I try to regain my train of thought. She proceeds to slash at me with the broken bottle, screaming in anger. I dodge her attempts, grab her hands and force the broken bottle out of them before throwing it at the wall as well. Then a steel legged chair hit me on the side of my face under the left eye. My eyes go blurry for a moment as I try to regain my footing. Miranda charges at me again, I grabbed her arms as she reached out and swung her behind me. Sending her flying across one of the cafeteria tables.

As Zara continues to fight, Elijah starts to feel physically sick. "Jed... You need to stop this. She's pouring out with blood!" Elijah snaps. Seth looks at Jed concerned 'I agree, this is too much. She could get seriously hurt.' He adds. Jed doesn't answer. His pride won't let him stop it, but deep down he wants to. He genuinely starts feeling sorry for Zara, seeing her covered in blood. His mind goes to a place where he wonders about how this all started, and then he remembers that Zara was only trying to help her friend. He deeply struggles to continue watching.

I'm starting to get seriously mad now. I can feel myself losing all sense of reality and all sense of self of self-control, all I see is red. My mind is starting

to go to a dark place. I turn around and see a group of girls running at me with different things in their hands. I let out a war cry and ran at them. I launch at the first girl and wrap my arm around her neck while I jump up and kick the girl behind her in the head. I land on my feet with my arm still around the girl's neck and fling her over the top of me onto the floor. 2 others ran at me, one with a broken end of a mop, the other with what seemed to be a wicket. I block the broken mop multiple times before kicking it out of her hands. I heard someone approach behind me, so I jumped as I spun around, and fly kicked the girl in the face. I turned back around and blocked the wicket as it came down on me, I snatched it from her hands, poked her hard in the stomach and then struck her on the back with the wicket, then threw it away. I see more girls run at me, so I turn around and run across the cafeteria tables. I eventually jump off on top of one, fling her around and threw her across the floor. I turn around and face the next one approaching, I run at her and jump as high as I can and do a triple chest kick. I land and follow it through with a spinning kick to the face. I turn to the left and quickly block 2 kicks coming at me from some karate chick. She proceeds to follow it through with a mediocre style technique, but I quickly overpower her with my technique, flip her over my shoulder and slam her on the floor. She groans as she hits the floor and can't get back up. Another runs at me from the side as I quickly bend down and push her up with force from underneath and sent her flying for a second. Another girl runs from the front, I stomp her in the stomach and wind her. Another attempts to strike me with a rake, I block her combos with low kicks and then hand blocks as she raises the end of the metal rake for a higher attack. I grab the rake with both hands and swing her to the floor. I follow through with a spinning kick to the side of the face to make sure she stays down. Then one after another, the rest of them ran at me. At that point I was in full defense mode. I literally felt like I was fighting for my life, I was completely focused on the task at hand and determined to stay alive. I was low key getting anxiety thinking that they are trying to kill me... I could feel my mind being twisted against reality. I saw every as an enemy in that moment. "ZARA!" Jack shrieks. I turn around and see him running to help me but being stopped by minions. I turned back around and continued fighting. I don't know how many there were, but I managed to put all of them down. As I'm putting the last one down, she looks a little worried as she watches me launch myself off the table next to her and come down with a full force punch on the side of her head. She covers her face and tells me to stop. I look around the room for a few moments, seeing if there is anyone else. When I realize no one else is coming at me, I look at the floor then close my eyes. I catch a few breaths

but as I do, I can feel my legs slowly collapsing. I drop down and catch myself with my hands. "Zara!" Jack screams as he pushes through the minions to come to my aid. He kneels on the floor and grabs my arms. "Zara... Zara look at me." Jack says as he tries to lift my head. I feel so dizzy, but I manage to lift my head up and look at Jack. I see his eyes start to get watery as he looks at me back. "Zara... We need to get you to a hospital." Jack says holding back tears. He tries to pull me up, but I groan and collapse again. Kaleb runs over at that moment and grabs one of my arms. "I'll help you get her up, come on." Kaleb says to Jack as they both put their heads under my arms and begin to lift me up. As they lift me up, I lock eyes with Jedakiah. Elijah covers his mouth in shock as he gives me a good look. I must look pretty bad then... I bet Jed is eating this up. I start to get aggravated just looking at him, but I don't have the strength to beat his ass personally at this moment. His day will come though... Jack and Kaleb carry me to the office and the ambulance is automatically called. The office lady looks at me in horror and I tell her I fell down the fire escape stairs. She gives me a worried look, then tells me to wait outside the front of the school and that the ambulance will be here in 5 minutes. She also says she will notify my dad that I'm being transported there so not to worry. I thanked her, then Jack and Kaleb carried me out to the front of the school. The ambulance arrived fast, and Jack was allowed to come with me while I'm being transported.

CHAPTER 4

I lay in the hospital bed after my evaluation, with Jack sitting next to me. Dad and Jonah should be arriving soon, I need a good hug... "How are you feeling?" Jack asked. "I feel okay now, just sore." I reply. A nurse walks in and grabs the clipboard from the table and writes something down. "Zaralina Montez?" She asks. "Yes?" I reply. "Your evaluation shows that you have a

minor concussion and also minor internal bleeding, we shouldn't need to perform surgery. But in case there are any complications with your healing process we want to keep you here for a couple of days to monitor your progress. You will also need 3 lots of stitches to the cuts on your body. We will bring you in for that procedure within an hour. Is that okay with you?" She asks. "I guess it's going to have to be." I reply. I hated hospitals, they gave me the creeps. "I'll be back soon to take you for your stitches." The nurse says, then exits the room. Jack stares at me for a while. "What?" I say. "I just... wish we could do something. Or go to the police." Jack says a little shook up. I smile at him, "Jack, go home and get some rest okay? My family will be here soon." I say concerned. He looks a little traumatized. "I should stay until your family gets her." Jack insists. "Really, it's okay, I kind of just want to be alone right now. But thank you for coming with me and staying with me." I say gratefully. Jack smiles at me "Anytime. I'll come visit you tomorrow after school, okay?" He says as he gives me a big hug. "Ouch!" I yelp. "Sorry! Love you. Bye!" he says awkwardly as he hurries out and shuts the door. I close my eyes and take a few deep breaths, a little peace and quiet at last. A few moments later I hear the door open again, I take a deep breath and think to myself it's probably my family. But I open my eyes and Kaleb is standing there. "Hi." He says. "Hi." I say back. "I don't know if it's weird that I came to see you, I just wanted to make sure you're alright."

Kaleb explains. "It's okay." I smile. "Here I bought you these, there delicious." Kaleb says as he hands me a box of luxurious looking chocolates. "Thank you, but you didn't have to." I say. "I know... I just, have never seen a fight like that. I think the victor needs some kind of reward." He jokes. I give a slight chuckle and roll my eyes. Then open the box of chocolates and try one. "Wow, there like... Really good." I say surprised. "Told you." He smiles. "How are you feeling?" He adds. "I'm okay now, just a little sore. They want to keep me here for a couple days though." I reply. "Probably for the best." Kaleb says. "Mmm." I moan. Kaleb chuckles and starts to say something, but then dad and Jonah open the door and rush in. "Zara!" Dad hollers as he rushes over to me. "Are you okay? What happened? Are you hurt? Who did this? We're going to the police I don't care anymore." Dad snaps. "Dad! Please relax. I'm fine." I say. "You're not fine Zara, you're in the hospital, you have internal bleeding do you understand how serious this is?" Dad continues. "I should go." Kaleb says. "Who are you?" Dad asks. "Kaleb, I'm a school friend of Zara's. Nice to meet you, I'll be going now." Kaleb says as he walks out of the room. "Zara, are you sure you're okay?" Jonah says with a worried look on his face. "Yes, I promise. I'll be back home in a couple of days." I assure him. After about an hour, I send dad and Jonah off so I can

get some rest. I'm feeling pretty worn out now, so they let me rest and promise they will be back in the morning.

Meanwhile, Elijah and Seth are at Elijah's place waiting for Luka to arrive with their childhood friend he picked up from the airport that day. Gabriella Asperaza, a successful model and businesswoman from an elite family who graduated from Benara State a year before Zara arrived at the Academy. "How long are they going to be? I'm hungry." Seth complains. "They will be here soon, stop whining. Let the maid to make you food." Elijah replies as he's playing Fortnite on his big outdoor screen. "Fine. Have you heard from Jed?" Seth asks. "Nope." Elijah replies. "I'm worried about him. He can get himself in some real trouble over this." Seth says. Elijah gets eliminated in the video game and puts his controller down with a huff. "Yeah, I know. I don't want to be connected to this situation any longer." Elijah grumbles.

"Me either." Seth adds. At that moment both Seth and Elijah's phones receive a notification. They give each other a look and check their phones.

Their acquaintance from school has sent them both a link to a video on YouTube. "WHAT THE HECK!" Elijah hollers. "Who filmed this?" Seth gasps. "Anonymous account, it leads nowhere. I'll get my boys to check it out, see if they can get it taken down." Elijah says concerned. "Look, it already has 30,000 views." Seth adds. At that moment Luka and Gabriella arrive at Elijah's and are taken to the outside area where Elijah and Seth are sitting.

"Gab! You're finally here!" Elijah says abruptly as he goes over to greet her with a hug. "Looking beautiful as always." Seth adds as he walks over to greet her too. "Hi guys, so good to see you. I've missed you all so much, you will have to fill me in on everything I've missed out on in the last couple months." Gabriella says excitedly. "Her flight was delayed; she will be hungry. Could we organize some food?" Luka asks Elijah. "Agreed, we can catch up over dinner. I'm starving." Seth declares. "Fine, I'll send an order to the kitchen. Drinks anyone?" Elijah asks. "White wine, thank you. Where's Jed?" Gabriella asks. Seth and Elijah give each other a look. "Err, he might not be coming tonight. He had a big day." Elijah says awkwardly. "Big day?" Gabriella asks intrigued. "Ah, yeah. He's just been playing games at school that make him sleepy." Seth jokes hoping to shut down the conversation while Gabriella is present. "What games at school?" Luka asked with a serious look on his face. Elijah and Seth glance at each other. "What games?" Luka repeats. "Oh, he's just been messing with that girl again!"

Seth blurts out. "DUDE." Elijah snaps at Seth. "He's going to find out soon enough anyway." Seth reasons. "Find what out?" Luka demands. Elijah gives Seth an annoyed look, then gets up from his chair, loads the video that just

got sent to his phone and hands it to Luka. He starts watching the video and

Gabriella leans over to view it too. "Is that the girl you were telling me about? Gabriella asks Luka. "Yes." Luka replies. As they continue to watch, Gabriella gasps in shock and raises her hand to her mouth. Luka stops the video and places the phone down on the table. "Where is she now?" Luka asks. "She's... In the hospital." Elijah replies. "Oh my gosh!" Gabriella gasps. Luka is visibly mad as he sits in silence for a moment. "You should go and see her, bring her some flowers." Gabriella says to Luka. "But you only just got here." Luka replies. "That doesn't matter. This is what matters right now." Gabriella reasons. Luka looks at Gabriella with a grateful look. "Thank you. I will be back soon." He assures her. Then he gets up and leaves the house to go visit Zara.

As Zara is sleeping, Jedakiah goes to visit her. He wears a hood as he enters the hospital and enquires at the counter what room Zara is in. He follows the directions and slowly approaches Zara's window. He hesitates for a moment before he looks through her window. He sees her sleeping, with drips in her arms and bruises and cuts all over her face and arms. The image of Zara looking at him after the fight flashes in his mind... He starts to feel sick. He quietly enters the room and sits down on one of the seats. He stares at her, lost in thought, lost in emotions. After all the times he's hurt, tormented and played games with people's lives, he's never felt guilt like this before. He gets up, feeling overwhelmed and leaves the room. As he's walking out of the hospital, he spots Luka walking in with roses. He stops and wonders if he's here for Zara. He decides to follow him, and he goes straight to Zara's room. Luka enters the room and sits down on the chair Jedakiah was just in. Jedakiah peers through the window to observe what Luka is doing. He sees Luka place the roses on her table and look at her. He puts his head down for a moment, a little grieved about her condition and grabs her hand. Jedakiah looks confused as to why he's visiting and touching her and wonders how close they really are. He storms off and leaves the hospital.

In the morning, I wake up to the nurse bringing me breakfast. I thanked her as I started to eat the fruit salad. I called dad and asked if he could grab a cappuccino for me on the way this morning, he happily agreed and told me he will see me soon. I thanked him and hung up, then sat back in the hospital bed and gathered my thoughts. Suddenly I noticed a bunch of flowers on the table. I pick them up, I don't remember anyone giving these to me. I tried to look for a name but found none. Weird, it must be someone I know. As the boring day in the hospital goes on and Dad and Jonah have left, and Jack has been and gone. I decided it's probably a good time to call Asher

and Miles and fill them in on everything and explain why I won't be at work for a while. Asher freaks out instantly and hurries off to come and visit me, she's at my side within half an hour. "Zara!" Asher hollers as she runs into my hospital room and wraps her arms around me. "Are you okay? What happened? Was it them again? It was, wasn't it? I'm going to kill them!" she declares as she storms around the room. "Ash it's okay, just sit down." I assure her. "It's not okay Zara. Seriously, look at you. Is there really nothing you can do to bring these people down?" She asks. "I don't know, I don't really want to think about it right now." I reply. Asher looks at me worried. "Okay... But as soon as your released we're making a plan to bring these dick heads down, okay?" Asher demands. "Okay." I smile, grateful to have a friend like her. She sits down next to me and looks at me all over and gives me another big hug. While Asher is Visiting Luka suddenly knocks on the door and steps in. "Um... Hello?" Asher asks confused. "It's okay. He's from school." I reply. "Oh, right." she says suspiciously. "I just wanted to come and see you why you're awake and see how you are. I'm sorry I wasn't there." Luka says saddened. "It's okay. It's over now." I reply. "Wait a second... Your one of them! I recognize you from the bus stop! You said he was one of them! Just who the hell do you think you are coming here?" Asher demands. "ASH. Leave him, he's not like the rest of them." I try to reason with her. "Is that so? Well people who stand by and do nothing are guilty by association in my books." Asher says moving closer to him. "Ash... Please." I beg. "Fine. I'm going to get a coffee." She grumbles as she storms out of the room. "Sorry." I say to Luka. "I understand." he replies. "You got my flowers then?" He adds. "You bought these?" I ask. "Yes. But I didn't want to wake you." Luka replies. "Well, thanks." I say. He stares at me for a few moments. "You don't need to stare, I'm quite aware how terrible I look." I snap. "I don't think you look terrible." Luka says. Then he gets up and starts to walk out. "I'll see you around." he adds as he opens the door and walks out. After some time, Asher leaves. Dad calls me and asks if I want him to come back in tonight. I said that it was alright and that I would just see him tomorrow. I load up a movie on my laptop and start to relax. Then there's a knock on my door and Kaleb enters. "You again." I said. "Me again." he replies. "How are you today?" He asks. "Healing fast. How was school?" I ask. "School was school." He chuckles. "A lot less entertaining when you're not there." He jokes. I roll my eyes and crack a smile. "Chocolates were good then?" He says as he stares at the empty box of chocolates he bought yesterday. "They were okay." I reply while sipping my smoothie. "Well i guess it's a good thing I bought more." He says while taking out another box from his bag and handing it to me. I was low key excited for them. They were way too

expensive for me to ever waste my money on, but they were so good that I wish that I could and not break the bank. "Thank you, again." I smile. "You're welcome." He replies cheerfully. "When do you think you'll be back at school?" He asks. "Hopefully next week, if dad let's me come back that is.

He's livid about what happened. He wants to get the police involved." I explain. "Have you told him what happened?" He asks. "Not really... I just said it was a bunch of girls harassing me." I reply. "Why don't you tell him that it's a group of guys?" he asks curiously. "Well... My dad's a little crazy.

I'm afraid what he might do if he knows they are males" I reply. "Fair enough... You're not afraid of what they might continue to do?" He asks. "No.

I can handle these nerds." I say confidently. Kaleb laughs. "I like your attitude. Anyway, I better take off, let you rest. Would it be okay if I sent you a message? I'll come see you tomorrow if your still here." Kaleb says. "It's okay, you don't have to." I reply. "I want to." He says boldly. "Sure." I smirk, confused as to why this punk cares. He smiles back as he walks out and shuts the door behind him. I continue to watch the movie on my laptop and open the box of chocolates Kaleb gave me. Yep, they are delicious. I low key, but high key, hope he brings more tomorrow if I'm still here.

As Zara is watching the movie, Jedakiah goes into the hospital again to see her. He approaches her window and notices she is awake. He steps back a little, so she doesn't see him and continues to watch her. He sees that she is getting stronger, and he is pleased. He leaves the hospital.

The next day I awoke again to the nurse bringing me breakfast. I called dad and asked him to bring me another cappuccino on his way in, he happily agreed. As I continue to eat breakfast, a nurse comes in and informs me that they would like to keep me in for one more night of observation. I didn't mind, I just didn't want dad to be stuck with hefty hospital bills... Eventually dad and Jonah arrive, and they stick around for a couple hours to keep me company. "We'll be back later tonight to bring you a proper dinner so we can eat together, okay sweetheart?" Dad says as he and Jonah are leaving. "Thanks dad." I reply. Jonah waves at me with a big smile as he follows dad out. I watch videos on my phone for a little while before I take a nap for a little longer. It's boring here, that's the worst part of being here. Trying to find something to do to pass the time. I guess I could game? But I'm not much of a PC player. I prefer consoles and controllers, call me old fashioned.

Asher wakes me up from my nap and I notice I slept for way longer than I had planned. "How are you still asleep!" Asher exclaims. "I've been awake, I

just... Went back to sleep." I reply. "Well, that's all right then... How are you feeling today?" She asks concerned. "I'm good. I'm ready to go home, but they want me to stay here one more night." I say annoyed. "Hey! None of that! Safety first okay! You just been through some crazy shit. Seriously, I seen the video last night I'm surprised you weren't killed!" Asher says in shock. "What video?" I asked confused. "You don't know?" Asher asked. I shake my head. "Someone from your school uploaded the video of the fight."

She said. "What?!" I exclaim. "Yeah, it's like going viral. It's already got millions of views." She adds. "Great..." I say, worried that my dad could see it. "You should read the comments; heaps of people are showing support for you. It's quite touching." Asher smiles as she hands me her phone. I start to look through the comments and I am deeply surprised and shocked with the support there is. I'm feeling encouraged, I crack a smile. After Asher leaves, I lay there for a while, lost in thought. I get a message from Kaleb, asking if I was still in the hospital. I replied yes and he asked if he could come for a visit. I agree and he says he will see me soon. With a smiley face. When he arrives, he greets me and my eyes light up as I see another box of chocolates in his hand. "I thought I'd better bring you one more for good luck." He jokes. "Your too much, seriously." I smirk. "You nearly all healed up?" He asks. "Yep, I'm ready to go home. Sick of laying in this bed." I complain. He chuckles as he looks me over. "So..." He starts. I look at him "So...?" I repeat. "So, do you think you'll be active enough to make an appearance Friday?" Kaleb asks. "What? To your party?" I reply. "Yes." He smiles. "I don't know... I want to, I don't mind Post Malone's music. I just don't know if it's smart... Will F4 be there?" I enquire. "I don't know, I did invite them... But what I can promise is this. My home isn't the school yard, and our security isn't the spineless teachers there. If there are any problems, F4 will personally be escorted off the premises. You have my word." He assures me. I think about it for a few moments... "I'll let you know." I smile. "Okay." He smiles. "I better take off. I hope I see you this weekend." He says as he leaves. I smile back and wave as he closes the door. I shut my eyes and try and get a little more rest before dad and Jonah show up to have dinner with me.

As Zara is resting, Jedakiah comes back again. He looks through Zara's window, then takes a seat on the chair outside of her room. He gets lost in thought for a while, then slowly starts to doze off. As Zara's dad and brother arrive at the hospital and make their way to Zara's room. They notice Jedakiah asleep outside her window. "Who's that?" Zara's dad Percy asks Jonah. Jonah shrugs his shoulders, clueless. Zara's dad taps him on the

shoulder. "Hey, mate? He speaks. Jedakiah slowly starts to wake up, then looks at Zara's dad in shock. "Hey mate, you can clock off now. We're Zara's family, we'll take it from here. Thanks for staying with her." Percy says. "What? Oh, no... I'm not visiting I'm just waiting for a mate." Jed says then hurries off down the hallway. "Strange boy..." Percy says as he enters Zara's room.

"Wake up darlin! Dinner is served!" Dad announces loudly as I start to open my eyes. "Hey Zara! Wake up, we bought thick shakes as well." Jonah says excitedly. "Yum, I'm so hungry." I reply. "Do you know there was a boy sleeping outside your room just now?" Dad asks while he unpacks all the food. "Huh? What boy?" I ask confused. "I don't know." Dad laughs. "Probably a homeless person trying to sleep in here." I reply.

As Zara is eating dinner with her family, Jedakiah goes to Elijah's place. "Dude, where have you been?" Seth says to Jedakiah as he walks in. "Nowhere." Jed replies as he sits down. "Nowhere? Right, well we need to talk now that your finally here." Elijah says. "About what." Jed grumbles. "Zara." Seth replies. Jedakiah looks at him. "We're sick of it. We don't want anything to do with it anymore and we won't help you do anything either. If she goes to the police about this, you could do time in prison." Seth explains. "She can file a report but I can make it go away." Jedakiah replies. "Dude STOP." Elijah snaps. "Oh, will you two quit it? I have stopped." Jedakiah announces as he picks up the video game controller. Elijah and Seth look at each other confused for a moment. "What do you mean you stopped? Did you cancel the red card?" Seth asks. "Don't be stupid, I can't do that. I've never cancelled one. I just won't do anything to her anymore." Jed replies. "What about everyone else?" Elijah asks. "I'll tell them not to do anything either." Jed replies. "Isn't that the same as cancelling the red card?" Seth asks. "No." Jed snaps. "Er... Okay then. That's good, I guess. Does that mean we can all finally relax?" Elijah says while having a drink. "Yes." Jed replies while gaming. "Thank God! That was starting to stress me out." Seth says in relief. "Where's Luka?" Jed asks. "Probably with Gabriella." Elijah replies.

When Jed gets home that night, he pours himself a glass of bourbon and sits at his kitchen island. He watches the video of Zara right through to the end. Then sculls the rest of his drink and goes to bed.

The next day comes and I am finally released from the hospital. Dad picks me up, takes me to get food then takes me home. It feels good to be back in

the comfort of my own home. "Hun, I won't hound you yet. But we need to have a serious conversation about this school over the weekend." Dad sternly says. "We will." I smile. "Well okay then... Tell me if there's anything you need sweetie." Dad smiles back. I make up some food and play a few video games before showering and going to bed. I felt tired from being in an uncomfortable hospital bed the most. It was good to be back in my own bed, I slept right through until the morning. I wasn't going to school or work until my face healed, so that gave me at least 4 - 5 days maybe. I made myself busy until later that afternoon when I headed to the motocross track. I was already tired of staying home and had caught up on more than enough sleep. I was feeling energized and strangely strong considering my current condition. I meet Asher at the track and we caught up with everyone there for a while. I tried to dodge all the questions about my face and went to practice some stunts with Joseph and a few others. After we had finished, Asher, Joseph, TJ and I. Stood around one of the fire pots at the racetrack, hung out and had a good laugh together. I kept getting messages from Kaleb asking me to come to his party. I didn't know if I could handle all of that so soon though. "Who keeps messaging you huh?" Asher asked curiously. "Kaleb." I reply. "Kaleb? And what does he want at a time like this?" She smirks. "He wants me to go to his party." I reply. "Party? Where?" TJ butts in. "Like at his mansion?" Joseph asks. "Mansion! Girl! Fill us in! NOW." Asher demands. "I don't know if we should go." I speak. "What! Why?" Asher asks. "Because F4 will probably be there." I reply. "So? You got us." Asher states confidently. "Yeah! We got your back Z. We'll tear those guys up if they try to start." TJ claims while doing karate kicks. "I look like shit though." I complain. "No, you don't. You're still beautiful Zara. Seriously, now stop." Asher demands. "Well... Post Malone IS performing live." I start to slowly give in. "What! Post Malone!" TJ hollers. "Why are we still standing here?" Asher asks desperately. I look at all three of them... take a breath and roll my eyes. "Okay let's go." I finally say. "Yaaas!" Asher cheers. "Woop woop! Let's go! get in!" TJ yells at us as he signals to get in his car. We all hop into his car and I text Kaleb for the address.

As Zara and her friends are on the way to Kaleb's, F4 are already at the party on the top balcony outside. The party below is full of people, there's also a stage set up with DJ's playing. Jedakiah is looking over the balcony at the party, Luka and Gabriella are standing a few feet away from him, looking over the balcony also. Seth and Elijah are standing behind them talking to a few women who are also in the VIP section. Jedakiah turns around and leans his back up against the balcony. He looks over at Seth and Elijah and says

loudly “Hey! Let’s go, I’m bored.” He snaps. “Oh, come on Jed! The night hasn’t even begun yet!” Elijah reasons. “Yeah, the live show hasn’t even started. So have another drink and shut up okay.” Seth protests as he laughs and puts his arm around Jedakiah. “I agree. Cheer up and talk to some girls with us.” Elijah demands. “No. Girls are boring.” Jedakiah replies. “Ohh that’s right. Little old betrothed over here is waiting for his princess his mother has planned for him.” Seth laughs. “Gay.” Elijah scoffs. “Whatever. None of these vermin are worth my breath when I have something better.” Jedakiah claims.

“But you’re not even going to meet her let alone marry her until after college. That’s like 4 more years of virginity to maintain.” Elijah says. “Yeah, you’re going to be 29 before you even touch a woman. That’s a whole new level of fridget.” Seth mocks. Elijah laughs as Jedakiah rolls his eyes. “So?” Jedakiah says. “So... Do you really think you’ll be able to wait that long without acknowledging a woman?” Seth asks. “Of course.” Jedakiah scoffs. “Alright then, your loss.” Elijah laughs as he and Seth walk back to the VIP women. “Hey Luka! Let’s go, this place sucks.” Jedakiah snaps. He looks over at Luka again. “Hey!” He says a little louder. He suddenly notices that something has Luka’s attention. He turns around to see what it is... (Heat Waves by Glass Animals starts to play in the background) He sees Zara walking in with 3 of her friends. He leans over the balcony, surprised to see her there. As she walks into the light, he can see her bruises and black eye. He low key admires that she would go anywhere looking like that.

I walk into the party with Asher on my arm and Joseph and TJ by my side. We’re a unit, I felt safe with them by my side. We’re all in our motocross gear apart from Asher, who is the only one remotely dressed for the occasion. She’s wearing shorts, fishnet stockings, a jacket and boots with her long punk red hair flowing flawlessly. She dresses like an elegant metal head. We walk in, the atmosphere is amazing, it’s like one of those mansion parties we had only seen on movies. Strobe lights, Smoke machines, expensive drinks, foods and a massive swimming pool with a stage in front of it filled the outside area. We all stood back and looked in awe for a moment, I think we might have gotten a little star struck. We had never been to an event like this before. We walk around together and look in amazement at all the different activities Kaleb had going on at this party.

Luka turns around and walks over to Gabriella. “There’s someone I want you to meet.” He says to her. She puts her arm around his as they start walking downstairs together. Jedakiah watches them to see where they are going, they walk straight up to Zara. Jedakiah is mad as he watches them converse friendly with each other.

Suddenly Luka and a woman I recognized vaguely from somewhere approached me. "Zara, nice to see you here. This is my friend Gabriella." Luka introduces us. "Lukas told me a lot about you." Gabriella smiles. "Hi." I smile awkwardly. "These are my friends, Ash TJ and Joseph." I add. "Nice to meet you." Gabriella says. "Sup man." Joseph says as he shakes Luka's hand, TJ follows suit. Asher doesn't acknowledge them much, she doesn't trust F4. "Are the rest of you lot here?" Asher snarls at Luka. Luka looks at us both and nods his head slightly. "Don't worry about them Zara, they won't ruin your night. I promise." Gabriella assures me as she puts her hand on my arm. I smile at her. "Wait, I recognize you. You used to go to my school." I say surprised. "Yes, I would have graduated the year before you arrived." She smiles. "I would like to invite you to join me at my event next weekend Zara. I will give Luka your invitation." She smiles happily. "Thanks... But I don't think I fit in with your crowd." I reply. She gives me a saddened look and puts her hand on my shoulder as she looks over the bruises on my face. "You will always fit in with my crowd." She assures me genuinely. "Well, we should let you guys enjoy yourselves, have a good night." Luka says. "You too." I reply as Gabriella waves and they both walk away.

"Well, they seem nice. Maybe they're not all rich snobs." TJ says surprised as he takes a bite out of a party cake. "Maybe." I mumble. "Zara" I hear as I look over to see who it is, I see Kaleb walking over. "You made it." Kaleb smiles. "Barely." I smirk. "Were they troubling you?" He asks. "No." I reply. "Okay, just making sure. If anyone does, please let me know. I'm not having any of that mess go on at my house." Kaleb assured me. "Thanks, I will." I smile. "Okay, well have fun tonight all right? You deserve it." Kaleb smiles as he walks off. "Wow, does he get cuter every day or what?" Asher says nearly drooling. "Oi! Look there's Post Malone! He must be about to start, let's go find a good spot!" screams TJ. More excited than all the girls there. We all go off to find a good spot in the mosh pit.

As Post Malone is setting up with his team. Kaleb walks over to him; fist bumps him and enquires about a personal request. "Hey man everything good to go?" Kaleb asks. "Yeah bro, we ready when you are." Post Malone confirms. "Good good! Hey, would you be okay with doing a personal request?" Kaleb asks. "Sure bro, what is it?" Post Malone asked. "Have you seen that chick fight going viral at the moment by any chance?" Kaleb replies. "Yeah, my mate showed me the other day matter of fact. INSANE bro." Post Malone laughs. "I have never seen some shit like that before." He

adds. "Yeah, I know right. Well... she's here." Kaleb says. "Who? The chick that took on all those girls?" Post Malone asked. "Yeah, she just got released from hospital yesterday and I want to do something special to cheer her up."

Kaleb says. "Yo, I'm down bro. She got mad respect from me. Where's she at?" Post Malone asked. Kaleb looks for Zara in the crowd and points her out to Post Malone and tells him his request.

As Post Malone takes the stage and opens up with his hit song "Candy Paint" my friends and I start going wild. TJ gets on Josephs shoulders and goes berserk while swinging his water bottle on everyone. The crowd is so lively and all singing along to all his songs. Me and Asher dance together in the mosh pit with TJ and Joseph throughout his entire performance. I was actually having a blast. I didn't think coming here would cheer me up, but seeing the smile on everyone's face and being with my friends all dancing and laughing together to live music has really brought me up.

Jed is looking down at Zara, staring at her. He doesn't know what to think of her. He's still annoyed with her, and he's annoyed that he low key admires her. He doesn't want to admire her; he wants to hate her. Frustrated he finishes his drink and continues to observe, lost in his thoughts.

After about 10 songs Post Malone starts to wrap up his performance as me and Asher are on TJ and Josephs shoulders singing along to his last song. When he finishes, he talks to the crowd for a bit. "Did y'all have a good time tonight!?" Post Malone asked the crowd and the crowd goes wild. "Good good, hey! I have a special request tonight. For someone that has had a very rough week at school. Someone who's violent altercation went viral this week and her friends and I would just like to personally encourage her tonight. So, without further ado, come up here fighter girl." Post Malone says while looking straight at me. I freeze; he can't possibly be talking about me. "Is he talking about you?" Asher asks in disbelief. "NO... NO." I reply scared. "Yes, he is! He's talking about you!" TJ hollers. "NO WAY. You're going up right now!" Asher demands as I try to squirm off Josephs shoulders. But he grabs my legs tight and walks quickly to the front with Asher and TJ going crazy beside us. As we approach the front, I feel like I am about to have an anxiety attack. I absolutely hate being the center of attention with everyone eyes on me. I just wanted a black hole to open in the ground and swallow me

up. As I reluctantly look up to this stage Post Malone is leaning down right in front of me. He extends his hand to me and invites me on stage. I freeze again, stuck in shock with no words. "It's okay." He assures me as he extends his hand further. I pause for a moment and then reluctantly take his hand; the crowd goes wild as he pulls me off Joseph's shoulders and onto the stage. A member of his team brings out a stool and Post Malone directs me to sit on it. "This song is dedicated to you tonight beautiful." Post Malone declares while staring at my beaten-up face. Soft music starts to fill the silence as he begins to sing "What makes you beautiful" by One Direction. He looks me directly in the eyes the entire time he sang. Near the end of the song, he pulls me up from the stool and circles me continuing to sing the most romantic song I've ever heard. Then he takes my hand and stands close to me while he touches my face and finishes the last verse. I try so hard not to blush as he finishes the song, I'm not even a fan of Post Malone. How can he make my heart flutter like this? I blame the singing. I'm a sucker for live music, and I've never had anyone sing to me before. This has definitely caught me off guard. I try and hold it back as much as I can, but I give in and blush. I smile shyly and look away. Post Malone laughs at me as he puts his arm around me and the crowd goes wild. I walk with him off the stage as different music starts to play. Everything is happening in slow motion; I can't wipe the smile off my face. It's so embarrassing... "Are you alright?" Post Malone says to me as we come to backstage. "Yeah." I reply shyly. "Good! You look a little overwhelmed is all." He says with a laugh. "I am." I reply nervously. Post Malone laughs as he puts his arm around my shoulder. "I gotta tell ya. I saw that fight you're in and your incredible. Gurl you can't fight, straight up. I'm tempted to offer you a bodyguard position for real!" He smiles. "Thanks." I giggle. "And also... Thank you for that. It really helped." I say genuinely. Post Malone gives me a smile and says, "Don't thank me thank your friend, it was all his idea." Post Malone claims as he points over to Kaleb standing by. I look over and him a smile, he smiles back and gives me a little wave. "Oh, by the way. Can we get a picture together? My friend won't believe I met the chick from the video he showed me." Post Malone asks. "Sure." I say happily as we pose for a photo as one of his people takes a picture. He gives me a hug and we say our goodbyes. I look back over to Kaleb and start walking over to him, he meets me halfway. "So, I saw that managed to put a smile on your face." Kaleb says playfully. I roll my eyes "Okay, you got me." I smirk. He looks at me and laughs "I'm glad." Kaleb replies. We both stare into each other's eyes for a moment as I think of the words to say. "You don't have to thank me." Kaleb says abruptly as I was about to thank him. "But I want to." I reply. "Seriously, don't. What you're

doing and what you're fighting for is important to a lot of people you don't know about. We don't want you to give up, so we're going to try and encourage you all the way until graduation if that's what it takes to keep you around." Kaleb explains. I look at him confused but touched at the same time, I didn't know what to say. "Will you stay?" Kaleb asked. "I don't know... I don't know if my dad will let me." I reply. "That's understandable I guess." He speaks. "I should get back to my friends." I say with a smile. "Okay." Kaleb replies. We both give each other a smile as I walk off and find my friends.

As all of this is occurring, Jedakiah observes all of it. He doesn't end up leaving but stays to watch Zara. Extremely annoyed at all the support Zara is receiving he finishes his drink and signals for the waiter to bring him another one. Observing Jedakiah's odd behavior is Seth and Elijah. They walk over and stand beside Jedakiah and Elijah puts his arm around him. "You know, if you stare at Zara any longer someone's going to think you like her." Elijah jokes. Seth laughs as Jedakiah rolls his eyes. "Oh, come on! Get out of this mood, we're sick of it. Have fun with us again." Seth says as he lifts his glass to cheers Jedakiah. He ignores Seth and continues to drink in anger. "Wow. What a jerk." Seth scoffs. "Ah come on Seth leave him. Let's go back to the girls." Elijah laughs as they both walk off behind him. Off to the side of the balcony Luka is still standing with Gabriella but has also been observing Jedakiah's strange behavior. He looks over to him and sees that he is constantly staring at the crowd. Luka looks down to investigate what he is starting at, and he sees Zara. He looks back at Jedakiah, still watching her and drinking his drink. Luka gives a confounded look and then looks away and smiles.

I walk back into the event area and find Asher, Joseph and TJ. As soon as Asher sees me, she runs up to me and squeals so loudly it nearly leaves me deaf. "OH MY GOSH! OH MY GOSH! OH MY GOSH!!!! That was SO cool. I can't believe that just happened! And I got it all on video! Ah! This is the best night ever!" Asher celebrates. "Zara, bro. You are officially the coolest person we know!" TJ hollers as he lifts me up and spins me around. "I can't believe Posty' saw your video! That's madness." Joseph announces. "Yeah, it is a bit." I say, still a little overwhelmed. "Are you guys ready to go soon? I'm hungry, and kind of feel like I'm going to pass out." I add. They all giggle and Asher puts her arm in mine. "Alright, let's head out. That was probably a

little much after coming out of hospital.” Asher laughs. “Let me grab one more cake and I’ll meet you guys at the car!” TJ hollers as he races off to the food area again.

As Zara is walking out, she glances up at the balcony and her and Jedakiah locks eyes. He gives her an empty stare; she looks back at him with anger for a moment before she looks away and continues walking to TJ’s car.

As we arrive back at my house after all that occurred, everyone convinced me to have a sleepover and keep the night going. So, Asher, Joseph, TJ and I all got comfy in the lounge room, stayed up and played video games and reminisced about the night we all just had. Watching videos on Asher’s phone and videos shared by other people that were there. Asher even noticed that Luka shared a picture on his Instagram story of Post Malone singing to me as well. I guess everyone was really feeling the moment, it was really a night to remember. We all eventually fall asleep watching “Grease” sprawled out all over my lounge room. In the morning, dad wakes us all up with the sound of the cappuccino machine. “I’ll have one too please Sarge!” TJ groans out loudly. “Me too Sarge.” Joseph says. “And me please!” Asher adds. “Mm me too dad.” I chime in. Dad has a laugh at as us. “Big night kids?” Dad asked. “Best night ever Sir.” TJ declares. “Well good. I’m glad you kids had fun and didn’t get into any trouble, AND was able to put a smile on my daughter’s face.” Dad says as he kisses me on the head. “We sure did! Post Malone even sung to her!” TJ blurts out. “Who?” Dad asks. “Ya know, Post Malone? The rapper?” Asher informs him. “Err no but I’m glad you kids had fun.” Dad smiles as he walks off to make our coffees.

After everyone had left and I was finally home alone. I lay back in my bed, put on Netflix on my laptop and doze off. I wake up the next morning, I slept for like 14 hours. I jump out of bed and hop in the shower and head downstairs to enjoy a lazy Sunday at home. “How are you feeling this morning darlin?” Dad asks. “Good. How come you didn’t wake me up for dinner last night?” I ask. “You looked like you needed the rest kiddo.” Dad laughs. “True.” I smirk. “Alright then, drink this and let’s talk about your school situation before Jonah gets up.” Dad abruptly says. “Do I have any say in this though?” I reply. “Of course you do, but you need to make me believe that continuing to go to this school after what happened is truly what’s best for you, because I’m not losing you too.” Dad says with extreme hurt in his eyes. “You won’t lose me, God protects me remember?” I assure him with a smile. “I know that... But tell me why exactly you still want to go there

sweetie. The best education doesn't always guarantee the best job or the best life." Dad adds. "I know... I just, really like the school and the classes and it's got everything that I want to do there. Having this school on my record will look good to any college or job I ever apply for. The classes themselves really go above and beyond to give you all the tools you need to succeed in your area of expertise. I love that I can also expand my dancing and sword fighting abilities and achievements while learning to become a professional software developer. Dad... These people do not scare me, and I have already won. Don't make me quit now. Or everything that I did and have just gone through will all be for nothing." I say to dad emotional. He takes a long pause and stares at me, then takes a deep breath. "I don't like it... But I guess I can respect it. Can you assure me your life won't be in danger again?" Dad asks. "My life was never in danger, only theirs. I was trained by the best you know." I reply with a wink. "Don't pamper me up." Dad laughs. "What? It's true." I smile. "Fine. You can still go." Dad caves. "Thanks dad." I say with a big smile.

The next day I arrive at school. Dad didn't want me going yet, especially with all the bruises still lingering on my face, but I insisted. Despite how bad I looked, I actually felt 100% physically and mentally. I felt strong, like I could take on the world. No way was I staying home. I had no fear of what school might bring and I had no concerns about the tormentors. I had a new fight in me, and I wasn't backing down.

Just my luck though, that after first break the schools' representatives from each grade was to meet in the school's common room for their first meeting. 4 students are selected from every grade that had scored the highest from the previous year and the first-year representatives are chosen after the first semester exam. And who else would be the representatives from the third years but F4 themselves. I'm not sure if they had actually earned that position or if they have just automatically appointed themselves to it every year, but I personally didn't believe they earned it. As I see everyone entering the common room and taking a seat at the long table, I enter last. I observe where the spare seats are, I see there are 4 at the end on the right, and 2 at the end on the left next to where F4 are sitting. I start walking over to the right side before I pause and think for a moment... I'm not going to avoid them or hide from them any longer. I'm going to face them head on and whatever they want to do they can try to do. But I'm going to show them they messed with the wrong child of God. So, I change my direction and start

heading down towards the end of the table where F4 are sitting. I pull out a chair opposite to where Jedakiah is sitting, take a seat and plonk my bag on the floor. I sit back in my chair and stare at him, with my face completely exposed in the bright light above us. He stares back at me aggressively and a little confused. I keep my eyes locked with his, he doesn't budge either. Everyone at the table is starting to look and whisper. Seth, Elijah and Luka look at us both intensely, bracing themselves. Then the teacher walks in and interrupts "Okay students we'll get this meeting underway if you'll all examine the dash board at the front of the room." She begins. Jedakiah and I were still glaring at each other, but I wasn't looking away first. I wanted him to know that I didn't fear him, and if he didn't know before, he is going to know today. Then finally Jedakiah gets an uncomfortable look on his face and turns to face the teacher. I smirk as I turn and do the same.

When Zara was staring at Jedakiah, he felt extremely uneasy. Examining her face up close and feeling her demeanor towards him made him feel uncomfortable. So much so, that he turned away because of conviction and not because of mere awkwardness as Zara had thought. After the meeting, F4 walk out together and watch Zara pass by them unfazed. "Woah, who cranked her up to 100 today?" Elijah says. "Post Malone I'd say." Seth grins. "Whatever, She's annoying." Jedakiah snaps. Luka laughs along Seth and Elijah as they continue to joke on the way to class.

After school had finished, I start walking to the bus stop. But Luka catches up to me and pulls me up. "Zara, here's your invitation from Gabriella." Luka says as he hands me a pink envelope which smelled strangely impeccable. "Thanks." I reply with a confused smile. "I hope that you come." Luka says with a slight smile on his face. "See you around." He adds as he turns around and walks to his car.

The rest of the week went unexpectedly great. I was on guard every day but no trouble seemed to come, not even from the random kids at school. Instead, people were actually talking to me and greeting me as I pass by them in the halls. It was weird. Jack thinks they are cool with me now because of me and Post Malone going viral on the weekend, which I somewhat agreed with. People didn't except me publicly until Post Malone did. Wow, the weight of influence a celebrity brings is seriously crazy to me. But I'll except all the help i can get.

Saturday comes and my face is fully healed already. I was hoping it would be an excuse not to attend Gabriella's event tonight, but now it's not and Asher is pressing me about going. "COME ON Z. It says plus 1, you won't be by yourself I'll be right there. Come on it looks fun, something different for us to do!" Asher pleads. I shoot her a strange look. "Formal wear though? We don't own formal wear." I try to reason. "So! We'll go shopping today for something or just rock up in our normal clothes who cares." Asher replies. "Dude!" I plead. "DUUUUUUDE!" Asher pleads. "Bro!" I snap. "BRO!" Asher snaps back. "AH! Fine. But I'm not dressing up." I state firmly. "Fine! We won't dress up! Ahhhhhh this is going to be so much fun!" Asher hollers. "Doubt it." I argue. "Can you stop being such a downer? Now come on, let's find something to wear and start getting things organized for tonight. I'll ask the boys if they will drop us off." Asher says as she picks up her phone and makes a call. Ahh great, wonder what tonight will bring. I feel good going with Asher though, she's a hot head and will never leave me hanging if I were ever in trouble.

As TJ drops Asher and I off at Gabriella's mansion in Annapolis, he lets us know to call him when it ends and he will give us a ride home. Which saves us splitting a cab fare back home, so we were happy and thanked him. We step out of the car and wave him goodbye as he took off down the road. "You ready?" Asher asked me over excited. "No." I reply bluntly. "Oh, come on! Put that smile on ya dial and let's party!" Asher demands. I smirk at her enthusiasm as she links her arm in mine and we walk through the large gates. I am dressed pretty casual for the occasion, I don't know how to dress up to save my life. I'm wearing a black, long sleeved, turtleneck top with skinny black jeans and boots. Asher is wearing a chestnut brown, short sleeved lace top with black skinny jeans and boots. I thought we looked reasonable for an event like this. But after we entered through the front doors, we realized just how under dressed we really were. Guest there were dressed in grand gowns, frocks, blazers, suits and ties. We looked at each other awkwardly as we continued our way through the party. It certainly wasn't any party we were used to attending... There was a large dance floor with classical music playing and pairs of people dancing in a ball room like manner. There was also a large dining area filled with the most exquisite desserts, cakes and treats of every kind. There was also a large outdoor pool area off to the side with a group of men playing the violin in unison. "I don't

know if I know how to have fun at a party like this.... I kind of feel like I'm at the white house and need to be on my best behavior." Asher comments.

"Agreed. Let's bail." I reply. "No way! We just got here; we have to stick it out." Asher demands. "Fine." I groan. As we are grabbing a bite to eat, the three mean girls from school Tamara, Miranda, Sasha approach us. They all glance at us and start laughing hysterically. "Are you seriously wearing that? Or are my eyes deceiving me?" Tamara mocks. "Nope, it's real." Sasha adds. "How embarrassing... Better off not coming at all then coming dressed like a homeless people." Miranda jokes as they all crack up again. Asher puts down her plate and starts pacing toward them, I grab her arm. "Don't, their losers.

Just ignore them." I tell her. "Losers? The only losers here are the 2 girls standing in front of us in \$10 Walmart clothes!" Sasha snaps in laughter. I take a deep breath and put my arm on Asher's shoulder. "Will you excuse me for a moment? I need to get some air." I tell Asher. "I'll meet you out there. I

need to go to the bathroom real quick." Asher says rolling her eyes and storming off. I head out the sliding doors next to where we were eating and stand by the pool. I try to relax as I enjoy the peaceful sound of violins playing outside and filling the air. I close my eyes and take some deep breathes. Then suddenly, a random lady walks up to me, hands me a plate with some left-over food on it and then heads back inside. No way... Did she actually think I was a waiter? What the heck. Now that's embarrassing. Just as I thought no one saw... The three mean girls came rushing out laughing and pointing their fingers. They had seen what happened through the glass doors, just my luck. "Oh my! Did she think you were a waiter!" Miranda cracks up. "Now if that isn't the biggest sign telling you to go home, I really don't know what is." Sasha says in disgust. "Yeah, karate kid, you don't belong here so just leave already." Tamara adds. "And don't expect Luka to come and accommodate you either. We see you throwing yourself at him, trying to get his attention. But the truth is, he already has someone.

Someone a lot better than you! see for yourself." Miranda declares while signaling me to look behind me. I roll my eyes and slightly laugh. I turn around to see what she was babbling about; I see Luka and Gariella running up the front stairs next to the pool area laughing and looking overjoyed.

"See? Do you think you can compete with her?" Sasha mocks. "No, you can't, so go home." Miranda snaps as she slapped the plate of food I was holding; the scraps went all down the front of my top and the plate smashed on the ground. They all start laughing at me while I stand there with white cheesecake all over me. As this was happening, Luka and Gabriella must have been alerted by the noise of the plate smashing and walked over to see what was happening. Gabriela and Luka both look at me, then Luka grabs a

handkerchief out of his pocket and hands it to me. "Here, you got stain on you." Luka says gently. I look at him for a moment. "Thanks." I reply as I take the handkerchief out of his hands and start wiping the cake off my top.

As Luka is helping Zara, Jedakiah is watching everything through a separate room off to the side of the outdoor pool area. Also, Asher walks out at this moment as well and examines what is taking place.

"What's happening here?" Gabriella demands. "Oh nothing! That was just an accident!" Miranda exclaimed. "You look so pretty tonight, Gabriella!" Sasha adds. "Please celebrate with us!" Tamara chimes in. Gabriella gives them an odd look, then smiles at them. She holds her hand out and a waiter comes up to her and hands her a champagne bottle off a silver platter. She takes it and starts shaking the bottle. "Yes, lets celebrate together." Gabriella smiles as she pops the lid off and holds the bottle out Infront of the 3 girls, so the champagne exploded all over them. They all scream and holler in agony as Gabriella laughs and walks over to me. "Let's go." Gabriella says as she takes me by the hand and pulls me along after her. I look at her in astonishment nearly, to see a petite formal lady of her statue doing such a thing was quite a shock to say the least. She leads me up to her bedroom and gives me a silk gown. "Pit this on while I find you something to wear." Gabriella tells me. "It's all right, really. Most of it has come off." I reply. "It wasn't a question." Gabriella emphasizes sweetly as she continues to hold the gown out to me. I really didn't want to change; I felt uncomfortable in pretty things. But there was something about Gabriella that made it hard to say no. I eventually give in and reluctantly take it. She walks into to her large walk-in wardrobe and starts looking through her things while I change out of my clothes. When I finish, I sit down on one of her fluffy stools and wait for her. She re-enters with a dress and a pair of heels and lay them out on her bed. "What do you think?" She asks. I pause for a moment... Preoccupied with other thoughts. "Excuse me, but why did you help me? You don't even know me." I say abruptly. She looks at me for a moment and then smiles. "I feel like I know you. Luka talks about you often to me, he has never spoke about any girl to me before. I think he may like you." Gabriella says cheerfully. "Like me? Aren't you, his girlfriend?" I ask confused. "Girlfriend? Where did you hear that from?" She laughs. "It's just what people say." I reply. "We are not together. Luka and I have known each other since we were children, he is more like a brother to me." She says with a smile. "Oh." I say awkwardly. She sits on her bed and looks at me for a moment. "Zara, I know it may be hard for you to trust people like us. But we are not as different as you think we are. Money, social status or occupation doesn't

make anyone higher or better than anyone else. I honestly admire you. Luka showed me the video of your fight and I have never in my life seen so much strength and heart in a woman. Of course I'm appalled in Jedakiah's behavior, but nonetheless I am proud of you. I wish I was brave enough to stand up to people like that." Gabriella says to me. "Thank you." I smile at her, nearly tearing up. She smiles back. "Now, let's get you dressed and back to celebrate with me.

As Gabriella is helping Zara get ready, Asher is at the top of the stairs complaining to the security guards about where Zara is. "Where is she? Where did you take her? Zara! Zaaaa!" Asher yells loudly trying to find where Zara had gone. "Mam, you have to go. Your friend will be down soon." replies one of the guards. "No, I want to see her now where is she! Zaaaaaaa!" Asher hollers again. As Asher is disputing with security, Elijah notices her making a scene and approaches her. "I apologize for my little sister, she's not well." Elijah tells security. "Come with me." He says to Asher as he grabs her arm and leads her d "Hey! Wait a second! Where's my friend! What have you people done to Zara now?" Asher demands as Elijah is still escorting her outside to cool off. "Will you chill out? Your friend is fine." Elijah assures her. "How do I know that? Last week she was black and blue because of you people!" Asher claps back. Elijah gave her a convicted look as he takes a deep breath. "Look your friend is all right. Gabriella is taking care of her. Just relax okay, she will be back out soon." He says confidently. "Fine." Asher snaps as she purposely bumps him while she walks past back into the party. Elijah smirks and laughs a little as he follows her in.

As Gabriella and I are walking back out to her party arm in arm, I pause nervously for a moment. "Don't be nervous, you look beautiful." Gabriella compliments. "I don't know if I can do this, I've never wore anything like this before." I stammer. "Look at me, you can do this. We get knocked down we get back up remember. Now go out there and show everyone that there isn't any world that you can't fit into." Gabriella encourages me. I take a deep breath and look at her. "Alright." I shyly say. Gabriella smiles from ear to ear and takes my arm. We start walking towards the staircase together to go back down. She has dressed me in an elegant, dark gold, long sleeve, high neck, mummy wrap dress with sparkly black heels. She has also done my makeup and fixed my hair into a more royal look. I must admit, I've never looked so stylish in my life. But I have also never felt so nervous in my life

either. Please Lord, don't let me throw up on Gabriella's dress, I think to myself.

As Gabriella and Zara are making their way downstairs, the whole room stops to stare at them, including F4. Jedakiah sees everyone's attention being directed to the stairs case, so he looks up to see what they are all looking at. He sees Gabriella and Zara walking down arm in arm. He stares at Zara, mad that Gabriella is helping her. But he also can't stop himself from noticing how good Zara looks. he is a little caught off guard by it and storms off to get another drink.

As Gabriella and I come to the bottom of the stairs, Luka meets us wearing a large smile. "This looks right for you." Luka says as I approach him. "You mean the dress?" I ask. "I mean your facial expression." Luka replies. I smile shyly and look away. "Dance with me." Luka says as he holds out his hand to me. I hesitate for a moment, I really didn't want to slow dance, it's awkward. I'm more of a hip-hop dancer. But the moment called for me to rise above the fear and embrace it. So, I take his hand, and he leads me into the ballroom area. He brings me to the middle of the floor and he leads me in a slow dance. I couldn't help but feel a little giddy for some reason. I have never danced with a boy like this before, it was quite flattering. I felt like I was in a movie or something.

As Zara and Luka are dancing together, Asher, Elijah and Seth are at the side of the room watching. "Wow, your friend scrubs up quite nicely." Seth admires. "Shut up, perve." Asher snaps. "Hey, your friends all right as you can see. Can't you relax a bit now huh?" Elijah asks while putting his arm around Asher's shoulder. She removes his arm and gives him a dirty look. "I need cake." Asher demands as she storms off. As Luka and Zara are continuing to dance, Jedakiah is also watching from the side, completely infuriated. His patience with Luka attending to Zara has worn out. He can't stand to see them so comfortably accustomed with each other. Zara was still his enemy, and the red card was still active. Jedakiah slams his drink down on the table next to him and starts storming toward the dancefloor. As Luka and Zara are looking into each other's eyes, suddenly Jedakiah pushes Luka from Zara's grasp. "What do you think you're doing Luka! I gave this girl a red card! Why do you keep helping her! What do you want Luka?" Jedakiah demands. Luka gives him an angry look but says nothing. Gabriella runs up beside Jedakiah and grabs his arm. "Jed please calm down. Zara's a nice girl just give her a chance huh?" Gabriella reasons. Jedakiah looks at her. "This is none of your business." He snaps while forcefully yanking his arm from her

grasp and causing her to nearly fall over. At that moment Luka was triggered and ran up to Jedakiah and punched him. "If you have a problem, clear it with me. Gabriella isn't a part of this." Luka yells. "Clear it with you Luka? Okay." Jedakiah scoffs as he approaches Luka and punches him back. Luka retaliates and they both scruff one another's collar and yell in each other's face. Luka then pushes Jedakiah off him and as Jedakiah is walking back towards him about to strike back, Zara tackles Jedakiah to the ground. Jedakiah moans as he opens his eyes and raises his head slightly from the ground to see who is on top of him. Zara is laying half on Jedakiah, half on the floor. She lifts her head up and looks at Jedakiah. They both jump a little in shock when they realize how close they are to each other. They propped up a little more on the ground, with Zara still leaning over him. Jedakiah is sitting up with his hands flat on the floor behind him. They share a long and intense stare as they continue to lock eyes with one another. Jedakiah has never been this physically close to another girl before and it made him feel extremely anxious inside. He gulps and tries to hold his unwanted nervousness in, but was overwhelmed with emotions and aggressively takes off, bumping Zara back. Zara looked in confusion.

Why didn't he retaliate? What a bipolar dude. Get some help, seriously... I think to myself.

As Asher and I arrive back at her place that night, I get changed out of Gabriella's dress and into some sleepwear. I ponder about the night I just had and how it was half a fairytale and half a nightmare all in one. I laugh for a moment as I look in the bathroom mirror. "What is my life." I say out loud. Then I take myself to bed and get comfy next to Asher and doze off.

The next day, F4 are all hanging out together by Jedakiah's pool and talking about the night before. Minus Luka, he stayed with Gabriella after the fight and hasn't contacted any of them since. "Well, last night was interesting." Seth says sarcastically. "Yeah, it was." Elijah laughs. "When are you going to apologize to Luka?" Seth asked Jedakiah. "What? He's the one that should be apologizing to me! Tell him if he doesn't apologize don't expect us to talk in this lifetime!" Jedakiah snaps as he continues to eat yoghurt on one of the pool beds. Seth and Elijah give each other an annoyed look. "Aye, whatever then drama queen!" Elijah mocks as he splashes Jedakiah with water from the pool. "Oi!" Jedakiah snaps as Seth and Elijah laughs at him. "Can you

believe that girl last night? I can't believe she tried to kiss me." Jedakiah states. Seth spits out the mouthful of juice he just attempted to drink and he and Elijah both stare at Jedakiah. "Did you drop acid or something?" Seth asked as Elijah cracks up. "What? She literally fell head over heels for me. I've thought about it you know? She wants me." Jedakiah claims confidently as he has another mouthful of yoghurt. Seth and Elijah look at each other in disbelief. "Bro, your delusional." Elijah jokes. "For real though." Seth adds. "Alright, enough jokes. I have a new plan." Jedakiah announces. "Enlighten us then, sensei!" Elijah replies. "Well, since she wants me." Jedakiah begins. Elijah and Seth begin laughing. "And since I can't get her to quit using any of the usual methods. I'll just seduce her, make her fall in love with me and then dump and destroy her in front of the whole school. Ha! She will be so humiliated she won't ever step foot back in our school again! let alone our city again! It's genius." Jedakiah compliments himself as he finishes his yoghurt. Seth and Elijah look at him in disbelief. "Uh, yeah. Good luck with that bro." Seth jokes. "Do you seriously think this is a good idea? I thought you was going to leave her alone." Elijah says. "I was, I am. In the usual way that is. But that doesn't mean I can't continue trying with lesser methods." Jedakiah reasons. "Right... and what exactly makes you think this is going to work?" Elijah adds. "Yeah, she will probably just beat your ass in front of the whole school and make you want to quit." Seth jokes. "Not possible. She will be too obsessed with me by then to want to beat me up." Jedakiah grins. "You've thought this through then." Seth jokes. "Of course." Jedakiah assures him. "Err... Okay then Einstein, and what exactly is going to bring all this about?" Elijah asked. "I will make a truce with her." Jedakiah grins. "What makes you think she will except this noble truce of yours?" Seth enquires curiously. "Because it's in her best interest to accept the truce." Jedakiah smirks. "Right... well good luck with that. Anyway, Let's get some food. I'm starving, and still a bit hungover." Elijah moans. "Fine." Jedakiah says as he picks up his phone and calls the maids in the kitchen to bring out platters of food for them.

CHAPTER 5

When a man's ways please The LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Monday morning comes around again. I get ready, have a quick spa with dad in the backyard, then head to school. Jack meets me at the bus stop as I get off, fist bumps me then hands me a cappuccino. "So how was the party? What was Gabriella like? I saw online that something happened and F4 aren't speaking now. Is that true?" Jack interrogates. "I don't know." I reply. Not wanting to get into all the drama first thing in the morning. "Oh bollocks! You know!" Jack snaps. "Bollocks?" I laugh. "I've been watching British television all right! Now spill!" Jack demands. "Alright! I'll tell you at lunch okay. I can't be bothered getting into it right now Sherlock." I snap. "Fine! You better! How's the coffee?" Jack asks. "Perfection, thank you." I reply with a smile. "Good!" Jack says as we both cheers our cups and continue inside. As we get to our lockers Jack starts freaking out about forgetting his notes for history this morning. "Ah no! Zara! Did you take notes last week? I left mine at home." He babbles. "Yes, I took some, chill out." I reply as I open my locker. "Hold this for a second." I say to Jack passing him my cappuccino. He waits for me as I get the things I need for history class from my bag. I go to put my bag in my locker and see a blue envelope hanging there. Jack and I look at each other in confusion. "What the heck... What now?" Jack hollers. "What is this?" I ask. "And why is it blue? I thought red cards were red?" Jack protests in confusion. I open the envelope and Jack and I both start to read the contents together.

Zara,

Meet me in the middle of town square in front of the parliament statue at
1pm on Saturday

Jedakiah,

Jack and I look at each other, then back at the letter. "What THE HECK." Jack emphasizes. Why does he want to meet you? What the heck happened at that party?" Jack demands. "Nothing! I just... Tackled him." I mutter. "YOU TACKLED HIM? Do you ever want this red card to end Zara?" Jack snaps. "Hey, it wasn't my fault alright." I snap. "Well, why do you think he wants to meet up with you then?" Jack asks. "Probably to fight me again... or get someone else to... Definitely the latter." I reply. "Well don't go, alright?" Jack protests. "As if I would." I say in disgust. "Well good! Now come on, we'll be late."

As second period finishes and I wrap up from dance class, I get my things and meet Jack in the cafeteria. We grab some food and a drink and sit down together. "Okay SPILL." Jack orders as he looks at me curiously. I look back at him annoyed as I finish chewing my salad. "Fine. Me and Asher arrived, 3 girls spilled food on me, Gabriella helped me, Luka and I were dancing then Jedakiah and Luka got into a fight, so I tackled him. The end." I said quickly as I continue eating. Jack pauses for a moment. "You danced with Luka? So, you're the reason their fighting?" Jack asked, shocked. "I guess so." I mumble. Jack snorts and laughs for a moment. I look at him. "What?" I said. "Nothing. It's just, one second their fighting you, next second their fighting each other over you. These boys are mental bro." Jack laughs. "Well, whatever they do, I'm not going to NOT hang with you anymore. They can shove it. Fairly sure most of the school feels that way too. So, what do you think he's going to do now? Jedakiah that is." Jack asked. "Don't know, don't care. Let's eat." I insisted. "Alright, alright. Try some of this." Jack says as he puts some chicken stuff on my plate. "Thanks..." I smirk as I take a sip of water. As I do, I glance up to F4's balcony and Jedakiah is staring directly at me. I place my drink back on the table, frown and turn back to Jack.

As Jedakiah is watching Zara, Seth and Elijah press him about the letter. "So... did you give her the letter or are you just going to tell her by telepathically staring at her." Seth comments. "I'm not staring at her." Jack snaps as he faces back to Elijah and Seth. "Right..." Elijah mocks. "So... Did you give it to her or not?" Seth asked again. "Yes alright!" Jack replies. Seth and Elijah give each other a look. "Do you really think this is a good idea, Jed? Getting close to Zara?" Elijah asked concerned. Jedakiah laughs "What are you so worried about huh? Making her in love with me? Every girl would fall in love with me." Jedakiah smirks. "We're not worried about her; we're worried about you." Seth said bluntly. Jedakiah gives them a confused look. "Why?" He laughs. "Because you have never got close to a girl before... How do you know that if you do, you might actually develop real feelings for her?" Elijah reasons. "Exactly, take it from me. Women are irresistible little flowers when you get close to them. I don't know if you'll be able to handle it. You don't want to wreck your future royal wedding, do you?" Seth adds. Jedakiah cracks up. "Do you two actually think I'm going to fall for that crazy chick? I have a princess awaiting me. So, I don't think so. You think too much." Jedakiah snaps. "At least we think." Seth mocks.

The weekend comes and Asher and I head back to stay at hers after work and motocross Friday night. We fall asleep watching a movie and wake up to the smell of scrambled eggs and toast in the morning. We get up and have breakfast together with her parents. "Do you want a coffee?" Asher asked me. "Love one." I reply. She starts pouring them both as I finish off my breakfast. "SO. I need to get an outfit for my cousin's bridal shower tonight. Will you come with me into town square today to help me pick something appropriate please?" Asher pleads. I choke a little on my scrambled eggs. "Town square?" I repeat. "Yeah, why? You have somewhere to be?" Asher asked. "Nope. Guess not..." I reply nervously as I take a sip of coffee. I was NOT planning to go anywhere near that stupid place today. What if Jedakiah sees me? Well, at least I'll be with Asher, and being a public place there's not much he can do... So, I'm not tripping.

We arrive at the town square mall at around 12 pm. We start going in to elegant clothing stores for women to see if they had anything suitable for a bridal party. She had chosen a baby pink, slick, sheek dress with white heels. Then we went to a restaurant to have lunch together at 1.30pm. We were sitting down enjoying our meal when the TV playing in the restaurant started showing an interview with F4. I look up and roll my eyes as I listen to them answer questions about their personal lives and love life. "Geez. Everywhere you look there they are." Asher complains. I listen to Jedakiah be questioned; I hate how smug he is. Pretending like he actually gives a crap about people, let alone love. He's so full of crap. Even hearing his voice irks me to my core. The more I listen, the angrier I get at him again. I seriously want to give that boy a piece of my mind. And maybe a slap for ruining my dance with Luka. That was a nice moment that was wrecked by his lunatic ass... Okay, that's enough thinking. I'm going to see if he's still there, fight or not this ends TODAY. I declare to myself as I slap my hands down on the table and push myself up from my seat. "What are you doing?" Asher asked. "I'll catch up with you tomorrow. I gotta go somewhere." I reply as I pick up my bag and umbrella and walk out of the restaurant. It's raining now, so I put up my umbrella and started heading towards the parliament statue.

It's 2:15pm now. Over an hour past the time Jedakiah said to meet him. But on the slight chance him and his possie hung around hoping for a show, I'll pop my head up there and check it out. As I approach the stairs that lead up to parliament statue, I take a deep breath and stretch my neck side to side,

then continue up the stairs. I have a long, black, hooded coat on with an umbrella over me and I'm still wet and cold, this is a pathetic day for battle. As I come to the top of the stairs, I look toward the parliament statue, and I see only one person standing there with a hood on. I look around and scope the area for any hidden armies of students or minions that could come running out, but there was no one. This is weird... I look back at the person standing in front of the parliament statue, and after closer examination. I recognized his gay leopard print jacket and knew then it was Jedakiah himself. What the heck is he doing just standing there in the rain. What is going on here... I wondered as I take a few steps closer. As I do, Jedakiah turns around and looks at me. I stare back at him, a little confused as to why he came alone... But that doesn't matter. I prop my umbrella down and start to approach him. I stop about 2 feet away; he just stares at me with an empty look. "What do you want?" I yell over the rain. He continues just to stare. "Why do you keep bothering me?" I yell again... And he just keeps staring. I throw my umbrella and bag down on the ground and take my hood off. "Come on then. Let's let this over with." I say while I get myself into a fighting stance. Jedakiah lets out a slight laugh as he observes me. "What?!" I say loudly. He inhales deeply. "I didn't ask you here to fight." He scoffs. "You didn't?" I repeat. "No." Jedakiah replies. I pause for a moment... "Why did you ask me to come here then?" I reply. Jedakiah pauses for a moment. "I want a truce." He declares. "A truce?..." I say confused. "Yes, a truce, are you deaf?" Jedakiah snaps. I look at him frustrated. "Um, No. I just don't believe you." I reply. "Don't believe me? Whatever, I mean it... Can we get out of the rain and talk? I'm drenched." Jedakiah complains. "Well, you could have waited under the shelter like a normal person." I reply as I pick up my bag and umbrella and walk past him. "Whatever." He mumbles as we walk inside to the indoor vending machines. I pop some money in and buy 2 hot coffees. I hand one to Jedakiah and sit down at the nearest table. "What is this?" Jedakiah asked disgusted. "It's coffee..." I reply. "Doesn't look like coffee. The only beans my family drink is Italian Arabic and smell like actual coffee." Jedakiah complains. "Well don't drink it then, give it back." I snap. "No, no I'll drink it." Jedakiah says. I look at him in strangely as he sips the vending machine coffee and gave the cup a few weird looks. "It's okay." Jedakiah says as he sits down across from me. I roll my eyes at him then continue to drink my coffee. "So, this "TRUCE." I say with my fingers. "What do you mean "TRUCE" It's a real truce." Jedakiah insisted. "Right, and why do you all of a sudden want one with me?" I asked suspiciously. "What do you mean why? ... Uh, because you're a girl and it's starting to make us look unethical." Jedakiah claims. "Unethical?" I repeat. "Yes." Jedakiah confirms.

"So, your ethical?" I ask. "Yeah, pretty much." Jed states. I roll my eyes and have another sip of coffee. "So, what are we going to do to commemorate our truce?" Jed asked. I look up at him "excuse me?" I speak. "You know, to officially christen the truce." Jed adds. "Christen?" I choke on my coffee a little. Jedakiah gives me a retarded look. "Are you dumb? Or do you just act dumb?" Jedakiah snaps. "Whatever. I'm not "christening" any truce with you." I declare, completely weirded out. "Stop being annoying, Let's just go. I'm hungry." Jedakiah snaps. "You're annoying. Go by yourself." I reply. "I can't eat in public by myself. I'll look like a loser sitting alone." Jedakiah says. "Quite fitting really." I reply. Jedakiah gives me a dirty look, then takes my cappuccino from in front of me. "Hey! What the heck are you doing?" I snap. "If you want your coffee, you'll follow me." He smirks, then takes off outside through the double doors. "Hey! Wait a second! You!..." I yell after him. I then take a deep breath of anger, pick up my things and follow him. I try to grab my coffee from him, but he kept lifting it out of my reach. "We're not there yet. You can get it back when we get there." He toys with me. "You do know I can force you to give me my coffee, right?" I say in a slightly threatening manner. Jedakiah stops walking and looks at me. "Well, that wouldn't be a very pleasant start to our new truce now, would it? Maybe you should find a different way to deal with people other than violence." He smugly tells me before walking off. I scoff in disbelief, hard to fathom what I just heard. Does he realize he's a complete hypocrite? How does this idiot even have friends... He probably bought them. I try and contain myself as I reluctantly follow behind him. "Let's go here!" Jedakiah exclaims, pointing at an expensive restaurant. "Eat where you want just give me my damn coffee before it gets cold!" I snap and snatch it from his hands. "Alright, chill out." He smirks. "I'm not going in there." I firmly say as I take a sip of coffee and sit down on a bench. "Fine. Wait here then." Jedakiah says as he goes inside to order. Why should I wait for him? He's just messing with me. This is all a part of some big plan to get back at me... Although, on the off chance he is sincere... I should try and honor what the Bible says about making peace with your enemies. But do they have to make it so hard? Ugh... Seriously.

Jedakiah comes back out a few minutes later with some dumplings. "Alright, let's go." He demands as he walks past me toward the mall. I roll my eyes, pick up my coffee and follow behind him. He starts rushing around the outdoor pop-up shops, touching and picking up everything in sight, asking me what everything is, like he's never seen it before... It was weird. He pulls me by my hood "Zara! Look here!" Jedakiah yells as he pulls me to the front of a shop. "Look at these! Does this look good?" He asked me while putting

on a random shiny hat. "No." I say as I turn around and walk off. "Oi!" He yells. He puts the hat back and chases after me, then sees something else and pulls me by my jacket again over to some random animal statue. He starts climbing on it "Zara! Take a picture. I want to show Seth." Jedakiah says while trying to find a comfortable position on the statue to pose in. I stare at him completely weirded out at this point. "You know what? I think I'd rather be your enemy." I state as I turn around and walk off. "Hey! Zara hey! Come back here!" he hollers as he chases after me. Continuing to drag me here and there like a child. After a while it starts raining again, heavily.

"Raining again? What the heck." Jedakiah snaps. "It's hail!" I reply. I look around for somewhere to take shelter and I notice a fire escape door. "Hey! Over here." I yell at Jedakiah. We both hurry in the door and take shelter. We sit down for a little while until we hear the rain ease off. Jedakiah eats his last dumpling while we wait. "Alright, let's go, it's stopped enough." I say as I try and open the door. It doesn't budge... I continue to pull the handle up and down and tug it every way I can. "What wrong?" Jedakiah asks. I turn around and look at him. "The door... it's locked." I reply. "What? Let me try." He suggests. He gets up and gives it a yank but with no prevail. "I'll check the top door." I say as I run up the stairs. But the door to the roof was locked as well. "Great." I mutter as I walk back downstairs. Can you call someone? My phone is crap. I have no reception in here." I tell him. He gets his phone out of his pocket and looks at it. "It's dead." He mutters. "What? How is it dead?" I ask. He looks at me. "Well, my battery obviously went flat from calling and texting you for hours with no answer." Jedakiah replies annoyed. "My profile is private. I don't receive messages or calls from people who aren't friends." I snap. Jedakiah rolls his eyes and puts his head back on the wall. I start

banging on the door and shouting, hoping someone would hear and let us out. That continued for a good 20 minutes before my voice box was starting to get sore. "Jedakiah. Help me call for help, I can't anymore." I tell him. He stands up off the ground and walked towards me. He comes close to me and hovers over me with a delirious look on his face. He starts to lean forward... Then he starts to fall forward. I grab him with both hands before he falls on top of me. "Hey! What the heck are doing!" I holler as I push him back into the wall. He moans and slides down onto the ground. He shuts his eyes and holds his head. I look at him strangely for a moment. "Are you okay?" I ask.

"I don't feel right." Jedakiah groans. I look him over; he doesn't look right either. Lord help me... I think to myself. I take a deep breath and kneel down in front of him. I lift his head up and feel his forehead. "You're burning up. You got a fever." I tell him. I go through my bag to try and find my honey and lemon soothers. "Here take this. It'll get some natural antioxidants back into

you." I tell him. "What is it?" Jedakiah groans. "Soothers." I reply. "Don't you have Panadol like normal people?" He asks. "I don't believe in drugs." I snap.

"How can you not believe in them? There real." Jedakiah mocks as he coughs. I give him an irritated look. "Just have one." I demand as I unwrap one and try to put it in his mouth. He squirms his head around trying to dodge it. "No! I don't want to!" He snaps as I continue to put the pressure on. "Stop being a baby!" I snap back as I grab his head and force it down on my lap. "Now open!" I demand. He gives me a look and reluctantly opens his mouth. I pop the soother in his mouth "Don't swallow it, just move it back and forth in your mouth." I tell him. He shuts his mouth and with a frown, starts to do as I said. Thank God. But then I notice how much he's sweating and without thinking, grab the packet of wet wipes from my bag, take one out and start wiping his face and neck.

As Zara is caring for Jedakiah, he looks at her deeply as she is wiping him over, and wonders greatly.

As I wipe him over, I suddenly notice him staring at me. I then realize what I am doing. I was just pampering this jerk like I would a normal person. What's wrong with me? Ugh. Anyway, I snap back to reality and throw the wet wipes to the side. "Take off your jacket. It's drenched." I told him. He sits up and takes off his jacket and lays back down on my lap. I remove my jacket which is waterproof and has a flannelette inside and place it over Jedakiah. I then lean back on the wall, fold my arms and close my eyes. After a couple minutes of silence Jedakiah quietly says "Thanks." I open my eyes and look down at him. I let out a slight laugh. "How did I end up here taking care of you?" I mock. "Why are you taking care of me?" Jedakiah asked. "Well... mainly because if something happened to you while you were with me, people will probably think I did something." I laugh. "Hey... can I ask you something?" He says. "Mm.." I reply. "Who taught you how to fight like that?" Jedakiah asked curiously. "My dad." I reply. "Your dad? Who is he?"

Jedakiah continues. "Ex marine. He trained men in different fighting techniques for war." I reply. "Woah... So, what age did he starts training you?" He asked. "4." I reply. "Wow, Seth was right." Jedakiah laughs. "Huh?" I say. "Never mind." He replies. "Can I ask YOU something?" I say to him.

"Yeah." He replies. "what's with the red card? Why do you do it for?" I genuinely enquire. Jedakiah shuts his eyes and takes a deep breath. "From now on... You don't have a red card." He replies. I don't say anything, I just ponder whether he's for real or not... "What about my friends? What about their red cards?" I ask. Then, I hear him snoring... I roll my eyes and lean back on the wall. I suppose I should try and get some sleep as well.

In the morning Jedakiah is first to open his eyes. He sits up abruptly for a moment as he clicks on to where he is. Then he remembers and looks at Zara. She is still asleep. "Zara... Zara." He whispers. She doesn't wake up, so he fixes the jacket covering him and lays back down on Zara's lap. A moment later, a couple of builders open the door and Zara is startled awake.

"I'm not doing anything!" Jedakiah protests. "What! What!" I holler in confusion as my brain clicks on to what's happening. Then suddenly Jedakiah grabs my hand and pulls me up and out of the fire escape past some builders. Thank God for that, I forgot we were stuck there for a second. "Come. I'll give you a ride home." Jedakiah says. "I'm fine, I'll just catch the bus." I reply. "Just come on!" Jedakiah snaps as he grabs my hand and pulls me along to where he parked his car. I try and yank my hand away, but he has a firm grip. "I can walk by myself!" I protest as I tug my hand away with all my might. "Come on then!" He scoffs as he gets the keys from his pocket and presses a button. I hear the sound of a car horn and follow him over to it. He pops the doors open automatically and they flip up like a bat mobile. This rich man's car was really unnecessary I thought. I awkwardly duck in under the door and sit in the sports seats. The seat wrapped around me, and they were leather, they were actually pretty comfortable. Jedakiah gets in and starts the engine, then starts heading towards Baltimore. "Have you ever been in a sports car before?" Jedakiah asked as we were on the way. "No." I reply. "Do you want to see what's so cool about them?" He says mysteriously. I roll my eyes "Surprise me." I reply. He smiles at me, then puts his foot on the gas. I grip the sides of my seat as I watch the speed meter go up to 200. "Okay stop now! Stop stop stop!!!!" I holler as he keeps getting faster. He cracks up and then starts to slow down. "I think you could of just told me, realistically." I scold him, annoyed. As he drives me back to my home, I doze off in the car. I awake to a loud car honking and I prop up my head and look at Jedakiah. "We're here." He says as he finishes laughing. "Thank God I think as I attempt to open the door. I feel around the door handle and push some buttons; the window started to come down and went back up again. "How do you get out of this stupid car!" I scream. Jedakiah cracks up and pushes a button, then the door buzzed open. I look at him in frustration as I reluctantly thank him for driving me home and then exit the car. Jedakiah gets out too and leans against the back of his car. "Zara!" He yells out. I turn around "What now?" I snap. He smirks slightly. "You know,

our truce day was kind of... Exhausting." He finishes bluntly. I roll my eyes and continue unlocking the gate. "Did you enjoy your night out with F4?" He says smugly. "Is that a legitimate question?" I ask. Jedakiah props up off his car "Hey! You went out with F4. Anyone would want this." He announces. I scoff for a second. "You think way too highly of yourself. It was definitely not a night I expected from F4." I mock. He approaches me slowly. "What DID you expect?" he says as he moves closer to me. I look at him freaked out about why he's getting so close. Then suddenly, he removes a small twig from my hair, sneezes and then looks at me. I laugh at his weirdness for a second. "Go home Jed." I say as I walk through my front gate. "Hey! We'll go out again yeah?" Jedakiah yells out. "No!" I reply. "Oh, come on! Please." He begs. "No!" I shout as I unlock my front door. "Alright I'll come pick you up!" Jedakiah yells out as he gets in his car. "No, you won't!" I yell after him. "Yes, I will. Bye!" He hollers out the window as he takes off. I watch him take off. Completely bewildered of this person... I am lost for words about the random night I just had. Worst part is, I had to try and explain it to dad. He and Jonah were very worried, but after I had explained everything, he seemed to understand.

The next day at school I arrive at the bus stop and to my surprise, Jack wasn't there to greet me as he usually does. Maybe he's running late for once, I didn't think on it too much. I continue walking to my locker, open it up and put my things inside. Then Jack and Ruth approach me from beside. "Oh, hey guys. What's up?" I say as I close my locker. They both look at each other and then look back at me with a strange look on their face. "Guys... What's up?" I repeat curiously. "Um... Zara. Are you the girl in this video?" Ruth asked while she handed me her phone. At that moment, I notice that other people standing around the locker room were also looking at me strangely. I tense up for a moment, wondering what it could possibly be. I nervously press play and start to watch. A video of Me and Jedakiah standing outside my house starts to play. It shows him walking up to me and pulling the twig out of my hair. But from this camera angle it looked a little off... it looked a little intimate. I nervously laugh. "It's not what it looks like." I declare. Jack and Ruth look at each other for a moment. "This is you then? With Jedakiah?" Jack says Flabbergasted. "Yes, it's me, you know I went to meet him." I speak. "Yeah... But." Jack starts. "But what?" I snap. "But what is he doing Zara?!" Jack snaps. "Nothing!" I snap back. "Doesn't look like nothing." Miranda scoffs, as her and the 2 other means girls Tamara and Sasha follow behind her. "Tell us. What have you done Zara?" Tamara chimes in. "Fraternizing with the enemy, perhaps?" Sasha mocks.

As Zara is being interrogated at the Lockers. F4 can over hear the commotion from the second level lockers above and Jedakiah decides to go down and approach.

“Zara and I are friends!” Jedakiah announces as he walks down the stairs with the rest of F4 behind him. As Jedakiah makes this announcement the entire locker room gasps and whispers and gets their phones out to record.

“What? No, we’re not.” I try to say but Jedakiah cuts me off. “And I’ve cancelled Zara’s red card. As promised.” Jedakiah says as he winks at me. “Oh, and her friends too. Cancelled means cancelled, right?” He emphasizes to the crowd of people gathered around. “Friends huh? I think we should take this conversation to the lounge.” Elijah laughs. Jedakiah looks at me. “Come on.” He says as he grabs my hand and starts pulling me toward the cafeteria.

Everyone freaks out and starts taking pictures and videos of me and Jedakiah. “What the heck! Let go you freak!” I holler as I try and pull my hand away, but he’s got a firm grip. I turn around and yell at Jack to come, he hesitates for a moment and nervously follows behind. As we get into the cafeteria I tug my hand away firmly. “I can walk by myself!” I snap. “Well, walk then.” Jedakiah orders as he waits for me. I roll my eyes and continue walking up with them all with Jack beside me. As we get up the stairs to their lounge area Elijah signals for us to take a seat. Me and Jack look at each other nervously as we take a seat on one of the sofas. “Quite a commotion you caused here Jedakiah.” Seth states. “Commotion all right. What the heck is going on?” Jack asks gawking at me. Elijah raises his hand “I would also like to know.” He adds. “Tell us the story then.” Seth says. Jedakiah looks at me with a raised eyebrow. “What?” I said. “Do you want to tell them?”

Jedakiah asked. “Tell them what?” I reply confused. “Hello... That we’re friends now.” He claims. “We are not friends.” I state firmly. “Why lie huh?” Jedakiah asked. “A truce isn’t a friendship, idiot.” I snap. “Ahh so that’s what this is. A truce?” Elijah asked. “Yeah, but ...” I start to say, and then sneezed. “Did you take some of the medicine you forced me to have?” Jedakiah asked. “No... I didn’t think I would catch it.” I reply. Jedakiah cracks up. “Of course you were going to catch it, you were with me all night.” He announces as everyone in the lounge area gasps. “This now has my full attention.” Elijah states. “That sentence is ambiguous.” I state. “Ambiguous? Just tell my friends the truth. Stop talking in a roundabout way.” Jedakiah says.

“Someone PLEASE just tell us!” Seth snaps. “Alright! Me and Jed made a

truce, got wet in the rain and then took shelter. The end.” I stated. “The end? What about the fire escape?” Jedakiah adds. Seth and Elijah grab each other. “THE FIRE ESCAPE!” They both say in unison as the crack up laughing. “Ahh! I’m going. Bye!” I snap as I grab Jack’s arm and pull him up after me. As we are walking out of the cafeteria Jedakiah yells over the balcony “don’t forget to take the medicine!” I turn around and give him a dirty look before continuing to storm off.

“You’re a mad man.” Seth laughs. “What?” Jedakiah replies. “Okay let’s get serious here. Is this a part of your plan?” Elijah asked. “Of course it is. By next week, Zara will be eating out of the palm of my hand.” Jedakiah smiles. “Right...” Seth says as Elijah chuckles.

I get home that night and call in sick to work. I play some video games with Jonah instead and then help dad prepare dinner. Dad has pulled out all the stops tonight because I wasn’t feeling well. Homemade chicken noodle soup, baked veggies and Silverside, white sauce and fruits for sides. It looked like quite a feast. As I am setting the table the doorbell rings. “Can you get that sweetie? I’m just finishing the white sauce.” Dad says. “Sure.” I reply. I open the door and look around. Then I see Jedakiah fiddling with something on my fence. “Jed?” I say in disbelief. “What are you doing here?” I demand. “The gate was open.” He replied. “That doesn’t answer my question...” I state confused. “Who is it darl?” Dad asks as he walks out. “Who’s this?” Dad says. I draw a blank... “I’m Zara’s classmate from school, Sir.” Jedakiah replies.

“Classmate hey? What are you doing at a girl’s house at this hour of the night? It’s not very appropriate. Do your parents know you’re out here? Who are your parents? Who are you, son?” Dad interrogates him firmly. “Jedakiah Xanarasee, Sir. “Xanarasee.... Xanarasee. I know that name. Where do I know that name from Zara?” Dad asked. “Probably from politics...” I reply. “Ah! Xanarasee!” Dad hollers as his eyes light up. “Son of Madam Priscilla of real estate, correct?” Dad asked curiously. “Correct.” Jedakiah replies. “Ah! Well, come on in then. We’re just about to have dinner! Eat with us.” Dad tells him as he signals him to come inside. “Hold on a second. What about the whole “It’s not appropriate” thing. What happened to that?” I argue. “Well yes, that’s because I thought he was some random gangbanger from around here. But his parents are high class people. If they let their son out to come visit you, he can visit.” Dad states as he walks inside. “What the heck.” I say in disbelief. Jedakiah smirks at me as he walks past and goes inside. I

roll my eyes and shut the door. What is this... I think to myself. "Jed mate, this is my son Jonah. Jonah, this is Zara's school friend. He's going to be joining us for dinner tonight." Dad tells him. "Cool. Hey! Do you play video games?" Jonah asked Jedakiah. "Sometimes, yeah." He replied. "Nice! Do you want to have a couple games after dinner?" Jonah asked. "Sure." Jed says shyly. "Hey, wait a second... Don't I know you from somewhere? You look familiar." Jonah asked him curiously. "I don't think so." Jedakiah replies. "Probably recognize him from TV mate. Now can you grab some cutlery out for Jed and a cup of grandma's juice please." Dad asked him. "On it!" Jonah replies. I start dishing up everyone's plate and dad brings the meat and sauce over. Jonah puts on a classical instrumental on the record player and then sits down with us. "Let's say a prayer." Dad says as he takes me and Jonah's hand and closes his eyes. Jonah grabs Jedakiah's hand and I jump a little as I watch his reaction. For someone who didn't mind putting hands-on other people, he didn't like people touching him. But he seemed strangely okay with it. "Zara..." Dad says as he gestures for me to hold Jedakiah's hand. I stare at dad in resistance but then Jedakiah grabs my hand. "Thank you, Jed." Dad emphasizes while giving me a disappointed look. I shoot Jed a look and he smugly gives me one back before closing his eyes for prayer. I roll my eyes and then close them. "Father God, thank you for this meal tonight. Thank you for our family, our lives and our company here tonight. May God bless everyone here, in Jesus name AMEN." Dad says finishing the prayer. "Amen!" Jonah and I repeat in unison. Jedakiah gives a confused look "Amen." He adds. "Okay guys dig in! Jed, make sure you try some of the white sauce." Dad says passing him the bowl. "Thank you." Jedakiah replies. Oddly enough, we all seemed to have a really nice meal together. Dad kept the dinner conversations going and made ridiculous dad jokes that Jedakiah somehow thought was funny. Then all of a sudden. "I know now!" Jonah hollers while everyone looks at him confused. "You're the guy from the hospital! You were sitting outside Zara's room!" Jonah exclaimed. I looked at Jedakiah. "Oh yeah, it is him!" Dad adds as he clicks on. "Ah I knew you were a good egg! Anyone that looks out for my kids are a good egg." Dad assures him. "Thank you, Sir." Jedakiah replies as he looks at me awkwardly... After dinner Jonah and I taught Jedakiah how to play Fortnite and we all sat there for nearly 2 hours laughing and playing different games together. Jonah jumping and tackling Jedakiah every time he beat him in racing games. It seemed so natural that I almost forgot who Jedakiah was for a second. I observe him playing with my brother and wonder deeply... If this is all just a show, or what he is really up to. "Time to pack up soon kids! You all have school tomorrow, get to sleep at a reasonable hour please. I'm heading up to

bed now. Was great to meet ya Jed, your welcome here anytime mate.” Dad says while shaking Jedakiah’s hand. “Thank you, Sir. Goodnight.” Jedakiah replies so formally. “I better head off anyway. I didn’t realize the time.” Jedakiah says alerted. Jonah runs up and fist bumps Jedakiah. “Will you come around to play again Jed?” Jonah asked so sweetly. “Yea bro, you have to teach me COD next.” He replies. “Sweet! You’re the coolest! See you next time bro!” Jonah hollers as Jedakiah follows me out the front door. “Well, he’s a ball of energy.” Jedakiah says as I walk him to the front gate. I look at him and pause for a moment. “Why were you at the hospital that night?” I ask him. “I was visiting someone.” Jedakiah replies. “Outside my room?” I continue. “Coincidence.” He replied. I shoot him a suspicious look. “Did you go there to do something to me?” I ask. “No.” Jedakiah denies. “Bull shit. What were you doing outside of my room?” I snap. “I felt bad alright!” Jedakiah snaps back. I look at him in disbelief for a moment. “You... You paid my medical bills?” I asked. Jedakiah inhales deeply and looks away. “Yeah.” He replies. “Why?” I ask. “Well, it was my fault wasn’t it!” Jedakiah snaps again. I’m lost for words.... I literally don’t know what to say, or believe. Jedakiah walks off to his car and pauses after he opens the car door. “You might not believe me, but I am sorry Zara.” He says, then gets in his car and takes off. I need to go to bed... This has been a crazy couple of days. Let me clock out already.

As Jedakiah looks over his balcony before he takes himself to bed. He ponders deeply on the night he just had. The smiling faces of Zara and her family flash through his mind and he realized that he genuinely had an enjoyable time. It made him feel warm inside being in a happy, loving home.

I wake up early, get myself ready for school and have a spa in the backyard with Jonah and dad before we all sit down and eat breakfast together. I finish quickly and make my way to the bus stop. As I arrive at school, Jonah greets me with a morning cappuccino as I step off the bus. “Thank you darling.” I say as I fist bump him and take the coffee. “You’re welcome, my Lady.” Jack replies. “What have you got first up?” I ask. “Fiz-ed, you?” “Dance.” I reply. “Nice. Oi! How come you didn’t get on the mic while you were gaming last night? I kept sending you invites.” Jack complains. “Sorry, I was a little busy.” I reply awkwardly. “Busy with what? You were online?” Jack asked confused. “Yes, but Jedakiah was there!” I snap. Jack stops walking. “Jedakiah was at your house? Why?” Jack gasps. “I don’t know. Because he’s a freak.” I reply.

“How the heck are you 2 this close already?” Jack hollers. “We ARE NOT close.” I snap. “Right.” Jack shoots me a sarcastic look. I pause and glare at him. “Whatever, I’m going to class.” I state angrily as I storm off. I grab my leotards out of my locker and head to dance class.

As Zara is attending dance class. F4 walks through the school halls. “Where were you yesterday?” Seth asked Luka. “Home.” He replies. “Well, you missed out on all the news!” Seth states. “I saw it. It was posted online.” Luka replies. “So, what do you think of it all?” Elijah asked him. Luka pauses for a moment. “I think it’s a good thing.” Luka replies. “How is it?” says Elijah. “Well, it’s not like Zara is a bad influence.” Luka reasons. “I suppose... Hey! Where were you last night? We rocked up and you weren’t home and didn’t answer our calls.” Seth questions Jedakiah. “I was at Zara’s house.” He replies. “What!” Seth and Elijah blurt out together. “What?” Jedakiah asked. “Did you meet her family?” Elijah continues. “Yes.” Jedakiah confirms. They all pause and have an extremely shocked expression on their faces. “Seriously? So, you guys are like... ACTUAL friends then?” Seth asked. “Speaking of which, there she is over there.” Luka announces. “Where!” Jedakiah snaps. They look at him strangely. “Over there...” Luka says nodding his head towards the dance studio. They all look as they see Zara stand on the gym mats talking to a bunch of girls. “We should stay and watch.” Seth says eyeing off all the girls walking around in tights. “Agreed.” Elijah says and they both start walking into the studio with Jedakiah and Luka following behind them. They stand on the side of the studio and watch as separate groups go through a different dance routines. Jedakiah watches as Zara steps up to do the routine with her group. She spins, dips and jumps flawlessly to the beat. Her body moving effortlessly and smoothly to each action. She closes the routine with a roll then a high splits jump and lands it perfectly. She then starts walking off the mats to the side of the studio where F4 are standing to line up again for the second training routine.

As I finish my dance routine with my group, I start walking off the mats to line up on the opposite side for the second routine and I see F4 standing there with a couple of girls talking to them. Me and Jedakiah lock eyes awkwardly... I wonder whether I should say hi or not... I don’t really want to. I still feel off about him. Jedakiah breaks the awkwardness with a slight smile and says “Hey.” I pause for a moment and then awkwardly smile back. “Hey.” I reply as I turn around and line up again.

Seth and Elijah shoot each other a look as they watched Jedakiah and Zara greet each other. "Well, that was cute." Elijah Mocks as he, Luka and Seth smirk at Jedakiah. "Leader of F4 finally speaks to women." Seth jokes. "Shut up. Let's go." Jedakiah snaps as he walks off and the others follow behind continuing to tease him.

As lunch time comes around, I finish dance class and head to the cafeteria. I sit down with Jack and Ruth and we all eat together. "Isn't this great! All of us sitting together again, no red cards. Ahh, this is the good life." Jack announces. "Here here!" I say as I raise my juice. "Three amigos together again!" Ruth adds. We all cheers our drinks to celebrate. As we are chatting, Kaleb walks over to our table and sits down next to Jack. "Hey Zara." Kaleb says. "Oh hey. I haven't seen you at the track lately." I reply. "I've been a bit busy. But I'll be there for the competition this weekend." He replies. "Hey man, I'm Jack." Jack says. "Kaleb." He replies as they both shake hands. "You're the dude in that band right?" Jack asked. "Uh, yeah." Kaleb replies. "Sweet. We're going to have to watch you play sometime. Right Zara?" Jack says over excited. "Sure." I reply as Kaleb chuckles.

As Zara is chatting with Kaleb, F4 enter the cafeteria and start walking towards their lounge area. On the way, Jedakiah spots Zara laughing with Kaleb as he steals fries from her plate. He pauses in his stride and observes them as a strange feeling passes through him. Seth and Elijah notices Jedakiah looking over and Elijah puts his arm around his shoulder. "What's wrong mate? Want to sit with your new lady friend?" Elijah jokes. Jedakiah doesn't answer and storms off towards Zara's table. Seth and Elijah chuckle at Jedakiah and puts their arms around each other as they follow him over.

As we are all having a laugh at our table again, Jedakiah sits down in the seat next to me. Then Seth and Elijah after him. Everyone in the cafeteria stares and whispers as they take photos again. When Jedakiah's around I feel like I'm in a fishbowl being watched by the world, it's extremely uncomfortable. "Whaddup!" Elijah greets everyone. "Sup guys." Seth adds. Jack waves awkwardly as he and Ruth wonder why they are sitting with us. "Kaleb." Jedakiah greets. "Jed." Kaleb greets back. "Since when do we have the cool

table at school?" Jack questions aloud. I roll my eyes and continue to eat. "So... The rumors are true then. You guys are... hanging out now?" Kaleb asks Jedakiah. "What of it?" Jedakiah replies. "Nothing." Kaleb smiles. Jedakiah smirks back and then turns to me. "What are you doing this weekend?" He asked me. I look at him for a moment, it still felt strange conversing with him. "I have a stunt competition." I reply. "Stunt competition? In what?" Elijah asked. "Motocross." I reply. "No way. For real?" Seth questions. "For real. Zara's a champion in her division!" Jack answers proudly. "Jack..." I grunt at him embarrassed. "What? You are. Everyone says it." Jack replies. "Can we watch?" Seth asked. "Yeah, I've always wanted to watch a stunt competition." Elijah adds excited. Jedakiah looks at me. "Well?" He said. "Of course you can! Anyone can come. It's a public competition." Jack replies. I shoot Jack a "SHUT UP RIGHT NOW look. "Sorry..." He whispers. Jedakiah chuckles at us. "We'll be there then. See ya round." Jedakiah says as they all get up and head off to their lounge area. "I gotta take off too. See you later Zara." Kaleb smiles. "Bye." I smile back. "Did we just have F4 and an up-and-coming celebrity sit at our table just now? or did I just completely hallucinate all that." Jack asked. "It happened." Ruth said. "Woah... Does that mean we're cool now?" Jack asked seriously. I raise my eyebrows at him and laugh a little, he's such a dork. "Okay, I gotta go. See you guys after school." I say as I walk off to my next class.

School finishes and I walk out with Jack and Ruth. "Guess what?" I say cheerfully. "What?" they both reply. "I'm riding my bike to school tomorrow." I announce excited. "Oh yeah! I forgot your all in the clear now! That's awesome." Jack replies. "I know. I think things might actually be going back to normal." I sigh in relief. "Let's hope it stays that way." Ruth adds. "True. See you guys tomorrow! I say as I leave them to walk to the bus stop.

"Zara!" Luka yells out as he catches up to me. "Hey." I reply. "Hey." He smiles. "I just wanted to check in with you. Is everything really okay with you and Jed now?" He asks. "I think so... I hope so anyway." I reply. "Mmm." He speaks. "Everything alright?" I ask. "Yeah, I just wanted it confirmed by you." Luka smiles. "I'll see you this weekend." He says as he walks off. I guess he's coming to the competition too. I'm starting to feel a little nervous... All these guys coming to watch me all of a sudden. What will people think? Oh well, why care now.

As the week goes by, I can confidently say that this week has been the best week since school has started. I'm riding my bike to school again, I'm sitting with my friends again and most importantly NO MORE RED CARD.

The weekend comes around quick and I head straight home after work to get an early night's rest for the competition the following day. I rise early and head downstairs in my dressing gown. I'm startled as I walk into the Kitchen and see Jedakiah and my dad hanging out eating breakfast together. "Jedakiah?" I say as I give him a strange look. "Your friend came by early this morning to wish you good luck today, isn't that nice?" dad said gratefully. "I bought this as well. You can put it on your bike." Jedakiah smirks as he passes me something. It was an F4 sticker. I stare at him blankly... "Seriously? I am not putting that on my bike." I snap. "Put it on your helmet then." Jedakiah says. "No." I reply. "Why not?" He argues. "Yeah, why not? Don't you want people to see that your friends support you?" Dad scolds. I give Jedakiah a dirty look as I take a bite out of my toast. "Jed! Your back!" Jonah hollers as he races into the kitchen and fist bumps Jedakiah. "Yeah bro. round 2?" Jedakiah says to him. "Yeah! I'll set the game up for us!" Jonah declares excitedly. Jedakiah shoots me a smirk and walks into the lounge room after him. "I like him." Dad nods. I smile awkwardly as I continue to eat my toast. "Spa this morning?" Dad asked. "Quick one. I have to start getting ready soon." I reply. "Nice! Finish your coffee and we'll get out there kiddo." Dad says happily.

As Zara, her dad train and spa in the backyard, Jonah goes outside to join them after playing video games. Jedakiah follows him out and watches them all spa together. Low key admiring their bond and family structure. He laughs as the dog tries to join in on their sparring session, something about them made him joyful.

"Come join us boy! Let see what the infamous Richie Rich has got hey?" Dad jokes. "Crap! I gotta get in the shower." I say as I look at my watch and race upstairs. "I better take off too Sir. I'll see you all again soon." Jedakiah says. "Sure son. Take care." Dad replies. "Bye Jed!" Jonah waves. "Oh, and put this

on your sister's helmet for me." Jedakiah says passing him the F4 sticker.
"Okay! Bye!" Jonah replies.

As I turn up to the competition with Asher, TJ and Joseph. We are taken back by how many people are there. "Woah there's heaps of people this weekend!" TJ gasps. "you're not wrong." Joseph agrees. "Zara!" Jack hollers as he runs up to me and picks me up off the ground and swings me around. "You ready to show out or what?" Jack asked over hyper. "You know it." I reply as we fist bump. Asher, TJ and Joseph greet Jack as well and then we all walk over to the club house area to get some food and drink before the competition starts. As we are chatting to everyone and having a laugh, we suddenly hear a group of girls screaming at the top of their lungs. We all look over to see what the commotion is all about... And it's F4 walking into the motocross arena.

(Crown on the ground by Sleigh Bells starts playing)

Asher, TJ, Joseph, Jack and I watch as a group of girl's flock to them, wanting them to do autographs and take pictures with them. "How are they so popular again?" Asher asked confused. "Heirs of the elite, everyone knows them around here." Jack replies. "Pfft. I don't." Asher scoffs. "Whatever, I'm going to get ready." I say annoyed as I pick up my cat ears helmet that I only wear for competitions and walk off to the main area to test run my bike.

"Same." Joseph says as he follows after me. "Let's go find a seat before everyone takes the good ones!" TJ hollers. So, TJ, Jack and Asher go and find a front row seat in the grandstand.

Jedakiah spots Jack in the front row and walks over to him with F4. "Is he coming over here?" Jack's asks nervously. "So, what if he is." Asher says bluntly. "Yeah, don't shit yourself." TJ laughs. Jack looks at F4 awkwardly as they all approach his seat from ground level. Jedakiah looks at Jack then looks around. "This is a good spot. Move." Jedakiah orders a few random girls sitting next to Jack on the front row. They squeal in excitement. "It will be our pleasure Jed, let us know if you need anything else!" They all say as they move from their seats and F4 sits in them. Asher, TJ and Jack look in astonishment how people just bend to their every beg and call. "What the heck?" TJ whispers to Asher. Asher rolls her eyes and continues eating her chips. "So, when does it start?" Elijah asked. "Dunno, should be soon." Seth replies. "Oh look, there's Zara." Elijah says eating popcorn. "I have to admit, I'm very excited to watch this." Seth declares. "Same, I've never watched

chicks do motocross before. This would be a good place to meet all kinds of chicks.” Elijah nods as Seth chuckles and agrees.

As the competition officially kicks off, the first set of male division races start. Then the male stunts division starts and then it was the female division races and then finally, the female stunts division were up. Zara puts on her cat helmet and starts up her bike as she begins to take her place.

Jack, TJ and Asher stand up and start going wild as Zara’s division takes their places in the arena. F4 also join in on the applause when they realize Zara was up, but they remained seated. “Here we go!” Elijah states rubbing his hands together excited to see the show.

And the competition takes off. 17 female riders from different clubs in the vicinity from the ages of 15 - 18, took off one by one, going up jumps one after another, flawlessly landing every jump. Zara was 8th in line. The competition went for 14 minutes, 8 judges ranking each stunt from 1 - 10. A couple of girls failed some of their jumps and stacked it near the end on the harder stunts, but Zara completed all of her jumps, flips, tricks and stunts impeccably. As the competition comes to a close the judges get up and announce the winners from the day. Joseph placed second in his race and received a silver medal. And Zara, coming as no surprise to her club or the people that knew her. Won the highest-ranking score for her division and received a gold medal. Everyone claps as she walks on stage and they place the medal over her head. After all the awards were given, everyone who competed went to a separate section of the arena to take professional photos with the club members and their coaches. Zara has her single photos taken, then taken with her division, then Joseph, her coach, and all the members from their club that competed in the tournament today. Then Asher runs over to get a photo taken with Zara as well. Also, Kaleb walks over and asks to get a picture taken with Zara, she agreed and they pose together cheerfully. Jedakiah sees this and walks over with F4.

Me and Kaleb pose for a picture and walk off to the side. “You seriously killed it today. It was awesome.” Kaleb smiles. “Thank you.” I reply. “I’ll see you at school yeah?” Kaleb says. “Sure.” I smile. Kaleb walks off, I turn around and Jedakiah is standing in front of me. I’m startled and jump a little. He smirks. “Where’s my picture?” Jedakiah asks. “You don’t get one.” I snap as I start to gather my things. “Why not?” He asks. “Because.” I reply. At that moment

my coach notices Jedakiah from TV and rushes over. "Hey! You're that businessman from TV right?" Coach asked. "I guess you could say that." Jedakiah replies. "Well, I guess you're the one I should thank for bringing so much attention here today. It's not usually this crowded. I'm assuming your responsible for that." Coach says. "Anytime, Sir. I was just enquiring whether I could also get a photo with your champion." Jedakiah asks. "Yes! Of course! Zara come get a photo. He's a particularly important guest today." Coach orders as he signals me to get in front of the backdrop. "Come on now! Hurry!" Coach continues. I give Jedakiah a look of utter frustration as I throw my bag back down and move into position. He chuckles as he watches me squirm and follows me over. We stand next to each other; I cross my arms and awkwardly smile. "Move closer!" the camera man shouts. Then Jedakiah takes a step toward me and puts his arm around my shoulder. I look up at him with a "GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME" look. But he just gives me a smug smile then turns to face the camera. I reluctantly face the camera and fake a smile. "Okay great! done!" the cameraman shouts. I run off from Jedakiah and find my friends.

After Zara left, Jedakiah asks the cameraman to send him all the photos he took of him. He happily agrees and sends them all to his email.

I find Asher, TJ, Joseph and Jack and we all get our things and start walking to TJ's car to get a lift home again. Asher stays over at my house for a girl's night, we change and get into bed with a bunch of food and watch The Notebook. "How many times have we watched this?" I complain. "I lost count." Asher replies as she stuffs her mouth with popcorn. "You know what I still don't get?" I ponder aloud. "What?" Asher replies. "She doesn't write him any letters." I answer as I shove another handful of popcorn in my mouth. "Oh yeah... That is weird." Asher agrees. "Anyway! Let's get down to the girl talk of the night. I saw you take a picture with Jedakiah earlier, what's the tea there?" Asher asked curiously. "Nothing. Coach just insisted on it." I reply. "Mmkay..." She replies as she looks at me suspiciously. "What?" I state. "Oh nothing... It's just, you 2 have been spending a bit of time together lately." Asher replies raising her eyebrows. "How do you figure that?" I scoff. "Oh, come on! He wants a truce with you, then you get stuck with him all night, then he comes to your house for meals and now stops in just to wish you luck?" Asher states. "I don't tell him to come, he just rocks up like a psycho." I reply. "And... What about Luka and Kaleb?" Asher continues to interrogate. "What about them?" I ask. "I mean, your whole

thing about only being in a relationship after high school. Do you really think you'll be able to do that with all these freakishly handsome guys flocking to you left and right all of a sudden?" Asher asks. "Yes. I don't like any of them." I state firmly. "Lies! How can you not? There like, HOT hot." Asher giggles. "Yes, they're good looking. But that doesn't make them good people." I reply. "Always so righteous!" Asher jokes. "Okay, then entertain me. Metaphorically speaking... If you had to choose one of them to kiss just once who would it be?" Asher smirks as she looks at me in excitement. "Do I really have to answer that?" I laugh. "Yes! Now spill!" Asher orders. I chuckle at her ridiculousness and then have a mouth of popcorn and begin to think. "Maybe... Kaleb?" I mutter out. Asher squeals. "Why Kaleb?" She continues. "I don't know... Because I had to give an answer." I laugh. "Would you actually kiss him though?" Asher whispers. I give her a side look. "METOPHRICALLY SPEAKING OF COURSE... If it was understood that it could never succumb to anything. And it was just an "in the moment thing" like a meaningless game of truth or dare or something. Would you do it?" Asher asked holding her popcorn in suspense. I think about it for a moment. "Maybe." I reply. Asher squeals and throws popcorn at me. "No more questions!" I laugh at her. "Fine." She smiles as she gets her phone out and starts scrolling through Instagram. "Oh look! F4 promoted the event on their IG today!" Asher announces. "You follow them?" I scoff. "Of course. You know me, I need to know the tea." She declares. I laugh at her dedication to the tea. "OH MY GOSH!" Asher hollers. "What?" I say startled. "Jedakiah posted the photo of you and him on his story." Asher says in excitement. "What? Show me." I demand. She shows me her phone and I see a photo we took earlier with his arm around me. "What the heck?" I shriek. "TEA." Asher emphasizes. I roll my eyes and hand her back the phone. "Whatever, I'm going to sleep." I reply as I roll over and get comfy. "Oh, come on! It's a nice photo!" Asher insists. I ignore her, shut my eyes and try to get some sleep.

The next week goes by fast. I had another amazing week at school with no trouble from anyone. Apart from Jedakiah annoying me to follow him back on Instagram so I receive his calls and texts. But that is definitely not happening. On Friday, Asher, TJ, Joseph and I make plans to go dancing with our fake ID's. Joseph hooked us up with them on New year's. I haven't been out with them since though, so they have been pestering me to spend a night out with the crew. And since the music shop is closed this weekend, Asher and I don't have to worry about work. So, we thought this would be a perfect weekend to catch up properly and have sober fun together. Well at

least for me anyway. The others drink but if I go out with them to public places, I make them promise me not to get drunk or be problematic. I don't mind if they have a couple of drinks. I'm only tired of getting spewed on and having to carry them home. I was not having a bar of it anymore, so they knew to be on their best behavior if I agree to go out with them.

Asher and I get ready at her house Friday night and wait for TJ and Joseph to pick us up. We have this thing that we do. Because TJ and I are rather exceptional dancers, we made up a routine together about a year ago that we can rip out at parties or public places. Asher and Joseph have a small part too, but they haven't been trained like TJ and I, so they just do the regular hip hop, street dancing parts. We first club hopped on New year's doing the routine for the first time and people loved it, so we just kept it going. Joseph also informs us that he has gotten us all on the guest list for CLUB CHANDELIER! The most popular dance club in the city, how crazy. We had 2 other clubs to go to before that though, so we go there last. We are 2 hours into our night and everyone is getting hungry already. "How about this. We go to Chandelier, skull a drink, do the routine, go get some chicken, go back there and chill. We're on the list so we can go in and out all night." TJ suggests. "True. We don't want to be dancing after we eat, it'll be a mess. Good plan." Joseph approves. "Let's go then!" Asher squeals. We run arm in arm together as we all walk 4 blocks down to get to the luxurious Club Chandelier.

While Zara and her friends head to their last location, F4 are drinking together at an elite club in a private VIP balcony section. Elijah's family owns the club, and many others. So, they don't need to worry about being underage or drinking illegally. Luka and Seth are sitting on the sofas with a couple of other guys and a group of women. Elijah and Jedakiah are leaning over the balcony having a drink and chat together, looking down at all the people and soaking up the nights bliss. "This place is wild tonight! Ahh, underage drinking. This is the life." Elijah laughs cheerfully drunk. "Oi, has Luka mentioned what happened in Paris with Gabriella yet?" Elijah asks. "Nah, won't say a word." Jedakiah replies. Elijah looks at Luka with the girls. "He's acting out though, he's not normally like this." Elijah says concerned. "I don't think it went well. Let's just wait for him to tell us." Jedakiah replies. Elijah nods and takes a drink, then looks down at the crowd again. A strange look starts to appear on his face. "How on earth did they get in here?" Elijah

states. "Who?" Jedakiah asks as he looks at the crowd to see who he is talking about. He suddenly spots Zara and her friends at the bar. 2 boys sculling a drink and then all 4 of them running to the dancefloor. Elijah and Jedakiah give each other a strange look, then keep watching them. They see Zara and Asher run up to the DJ and say something to him. Then Elijah's walkie talkie buzzed. "What is it?" Elijah said. "There's 2 girls at the booth requesting a song." The DJ replies. Elijah raises his eyebrows to Jedakiah. "Grant it." Elijah smirks as he and Jedakiah turn around to watch.

(Trumpsta - by Timmy Trumpet ft Contiez starts playing)

Elijah starts enjoying the beat to their song and nods his head at Jedakiah, indicating that it's not bad. They watch as Zara and Asher make their way back to their 2 guys friends they slightly recognized from motocross and found a space on the dancefloor. Then they see TJ start break dancing to the beat and doing flips and spins on his head as everyone else starts to gather around him and clap. Seth and Luka walk over to the balcony and start to watch as well. Then TJ leans over, Zara flips over him and they both start busting out a shuffle routine mixed with hip-hop moves. Then Zara starts doing a solo with heaps of spins, kicks, turns, dips, rolls and slides, perfectly to the beat. TJ then grabs her hand and pulls her to the wide steps in front of the DJ booth and they start doing the same routine on the stairs. They swing each other back down to the steps to the floor. They see Joseph and Asher start to join in as Zara and Asher bust out a cute little routine of their own.

Then TJ and Joseph had a a short routine. Then to end it, they all start jumping in unison together as the crowd moves in and joins them, jumping and punching the air to the beat full throttle. TJ starts dancing with a large older woman as Zara, Asher and Joseph all start laughing hysterically. F4 shoot each other a WTF look. They look back as Zara and her friends go tearing out of the club like hooligans and back into the street. Elijah cracks up. "Now that's where the party's at." Seth laughs. Jedakiah and Luka also can't help but have a chuckle about how random that was, but they loved it.

As we all get to TJ's and sprawl out all over his lounge room, we start to talk and laugh about the night we just had. "Oi! Did you see F4 in Chandelier?

They probably thought we were mental!" TJ says as he cracks up. "They were there?" I ask. "Yep. Seem em' myself. What's the go with you and them anyway?" TJ asked. "Yeah, I mean, it is kind of strange that you hang out with them after what they did to you. How can you trust them?" Joseph asked. "I don't." I reply. "Why do they want to hang around you all of a

sudden?" Asher chimes in. "I don't know." I say annoying. "It's suspicious that's what it is... Just be careful, okay? I don't trust them." TJ says concerned. "I don't either." Asher and Joseph both say in unison. I ponder on what they say and their right, it is weird. There's something off about it all and I'm going to get to the bottom of it. I hated feeling of paranoid.

The next day TJ drives us all home after lunch, he drops me off last and I thank him and rush inside. My body feels so tired of dancing and doing parkour all night, I just want to go to bed. I go inside and plonk my things down on the floor and put my helmet on the shelf. I go upstairs and shower, get changed and sleep until dinner. As the smell of food cooking slowly wakes me up.

As Zara slowly gets up, her dad is already downstairs having a beer with Jedakiah. He had rocked up 30 minutes prior to pay her a visit. But Percy insisted on letting her sleep, so they started having a drink together while he waited for her to wake up. They talked about many things, Jedakiah asked Percy all about his time in the military and what it was like. Percy asked Jedakiah about his life also and about his family and goals for the future. Then Percy turns the conversation to his concerns about Zara. "Son, I don't mean to put you on the spot. But can I ask you something without you telling Zara? If she knew I was about to ask you about this, she would probably kill me." Percy chuckles. "Sure, Sarge." Jedakiah replies. "I just wanted to know if Zara is really alright at that school? I'm so worried about her all the time...

I keep wondering if I'm going to get another call from the hospital or get shown videos of my daughter being attacked by groups of people at school again." Percy says emotional. "You saw the video?" Jedakiah asked. "Yeah..." Percy replied. "Does Zara know?" Jedakiah asked. "No." Percy replies. "She says everything is fine now but... After seeing that. I feel sick. All the time... Would you please look out for her at school for me? I can't lose her too."

Percy says with tears in his eyes. Jedakiah pauses for a moment, overwhelmed with conviction. He then replies "You have my word. No one will ever harm Zara at that school again." Jedakiah states firmly. Percy looks at him and smiles. "Why do I strangely believe you when you say that."

Percy laughs. Jedakiah smiles back at him and they continue chatting.

I finally get myself up and go downstairs to eat. And I see none other but Jedakiah talking to my dad as he cooks... "What are you doing here?" I

abruptly ask Jedakiah. "Ah, you're up! Jedakiah's just been filling me in on how well you went yesterday. My little champion, aren't you squirt." Dad says as he kisses me on the head. I give Jedakiah a dirty look, he smirks back. "I hope you don't mind; I invited your friend to join us for dinner." Dad smiles. "Not at all." I mutter. Soon after we had all finished eating, Jedakiah tells us that he is leaving. "Thank you for another amazing meal, Sir." Jedakiah compliments. "Your welcome mate, take care. Zara, be polite and walk your friend out darl." Dad says cheerfully as he walks back in the lounge room. I walk Jedakiah out and decided that was the moment I was going to press him for answers. "I'll see you at school yeah? Unless you feel like messaging me back in this lifetime." Jedakiah jokes. "Cut the crap okay. You can't just come to my house, we're not friends." I snap. "Woah... Brutal." Jedakiah replies. "I'm serious. What are you up to? What game are you playing now?" I demand. "I'm not playing any games." Jedakiah replies. "I don't believe you. Your "Jedakiah Xanarasee" leader of F4, meanest person in the school that everyone's so afraid of. You don't acknowledge or care about anyone but F4 but you come here, why?" I ask. "Why are you so paranoid? I thought you forgave me." He says confused. "I do... But I don't trust you. I keep feeling like you're setting me up to hurt me again and I'm tired Jed." I reply, slightly starting to tear up. Jedakiah stares at me for a moment, a little lost for words. "Zara... I'm sorry for the things I did before. Truly, I am. But I promise you that I don't mean you any harm and I'm not planning any attack against you." Jed states calmly. "How can I be sure of that though? No one changes that fast! You're a sick, twisted little boy that puts girls in the hospital! How can you be trusted! I'm lucky I'm even alive after what you did, and then you have the nerve to come here and act like nothing even happened. Do you know how messed up that is?" I yell in disgust, then look away as tears fall from my eyes. Jedakiah pauses for a long time and stares at me. "I didn't realize you felt that way... What do you say when sorry isn't enough?" Jedakiah asked, oddly emotional. I look at him... I try to think of an answer to that... but I can't. I look away again, wipe the tears from my eyes and storm back inside.

The week passes by, and Jedakiah actually leaves me alone. We have a couple moments of awkward eye contact at school, but he didn't harass me or force conversation. It was nice, I think he was actually starting to get the blatant hint that I do not accommodate with his kind. Also, through the week Kaleb had approached me and Jack and invited us to a beach bash Friday night. Jack answered for me and said that we would go, but I didn't really

want to. I needed a quiet weekend. But Friday comes and Asher talks me into it. So, TJ picks us up, along with Joseph and Jack and we head to the beach bash.

As Zara and her friends were at the beach bash, F4 was at Luka's house having a drink together. "Oi! Will you stop moping around? You've been like this all week. You still haven't told us what happened." Elijah says to Jedakiah. Jedakiah ignores him and has a drink. "Come on! Tell us. Maybe we can help and give you good advice." Seth adds. Luka looks at Jedakiah silently, also curious about the issue. Jedakiah rolls his eyes and takes a deep breath. "She just doesn't... trust me." Jedakiah reluctantly gets out. "Should she trust you?" Luka says. Jedakiah stares at him. "I mean, you are planning to destroy her... So does it really come as a shock?" Elijah asked. Jedakiah makes a face and turns his head away. Seth, Luka and Elijah all look at each other for a moment. "Jed? We've been talking, and we don't think you should continue this plan against Zara. She's a good kid, you've hurt her enough, stop now." Seth reasons. "I agree." Elijah says. "I also agree." Luka adds. Jedakiah makes an annoyed face and gets up from his seat. "I'm not going to hurt Zara." Jedakiah claims. The rest of them look at each other curiously for a moment. "Jed... you were never planning on hurting Zara was you." Luka says bluntly. Jedakiah looks at him awkwardly for a moment then storm off inside to get another drink. They all look at each other. "I knew it." Elijah whispers as they all chuckle. They all start checking their phones and going through the social news feed trying to find something to do for the night. Ah look, Asher and Zara are at that beach thing." Elijah said as he shows Seth a picture of Asher's news feed. "Since when do you two follow each other?" Seth asked curiously. Since the motocross tournament. We're keeping each other up with the tea." Elijah smirks. "What tea?" Jedakiah asked confused. "Your tea." Elijah laughs. "Should we go though? There's nothing else to do." Elijah complains. "Yes." Jedakiah says abruptly as everyone looks at him. "I mean, yeah, we should go. If you want. No big deal." Jedakiah says awkwardly as he has another mouthful of his drink. "Smooth." Seth mocks as they all laugh. "We could check it out though, see if it's alright." Elijah says. "I like the beach." Luka adds. "So, it's settled then. Let's roll." Seth announces as they all get their things and head out.

At the beach, it was a lively atmosphere. There were even some fireworks being let off and lanterns being released in the sky. It was so pretty, I'm

actually glad I came out. I go to have a sit down on the beach by myself to get away from all the noise for a bit. As I'm sitting there looking up at the stars, Kaleb sits down next to me. "Hey." He greets me. "Hey." I reply. We start to chat and have a laugh together. I didn't mind Kaleb.

As Zara and Kaleb are sitting together on the back, F4 rocks up to the beach bash. Jedakiah looks around and tries to spot Zara, he sees her friends, but she isn't with them. He looks around a little more and then spots her on the beach laughing with Kaleb. A hint of jealousy goes through him as he tries to ignore it and not look at them. But after a while, Seth, Luka and Elijah notice him staring at her and smirk at each other. "Just talk to her already." Elijah snaps. Jedakiah abruptly stops looking. "Talk to who?" Jedakiah plays dumb. They all give him a side eye. He rolls his eyes at them and gradually gives in. "She doesn't want you talk to me alright!" Jedakiah snaps as he takes a drink and storms off from them.

While I'm sitting on the beach, I get a message from dad letting me know he's on the way to pick me up. I chose to take off before he gets here so I can get some nice takeaway before going back home. As I said my goodbyes to everyone, I head off down the road to my favorite burrito place. Then all of a sudden, I hear footsteps behind me, coming closer and closer. I turn around... and it's Jedakiah... I roll my eyes and keep walking. "Zara! Aye! talk to me. I've been trying to talk to you, you know aye!" Jedakiah slurs his speech, he sounds drunk. "Your drunk, go home." I snap. "I am. Right after I talk to you!" He continues to babble. I hear him fall over a trash can, but I don't turn around. I then hear him moan and then continue to follow me as he hollers incoherently after me. Suddenly, I hear a group of guys approach Jedakiah from behind me and start harassing him for money. "You're that rich kid off tv ain't ya? What you got huh? Give it to us now!" one of them demands him as they all start to push him around. "Piss off ya wankers!"

Jedakiah yells drunkenly. They hold him back and start searching his pockets, they grab his wallet and phone. "The watch too." Another says. "Not the watch! Not the watch it was my dad's!" Jedakiah snaps as he starts trying to fight them off. He punches two of them before another one knocks him to the ground and stands over him. I'm standing about 30 meters away wondering if I should call the cops or keep walking. But as I watch Jedakiah get outnumbered and try to fight back I felt bad for him. I start to think what would I do if it were anyone else... and then I snap. Without a second thought

I take off towards the man standing over Jedakiah and fly kick him to the side of his head. He's knocked out cold as the other pause for a moment and look at me. Then they all start yelling and charging at me. I put them down one by one until I get to the last one, he just runs for it. I get Jedakiah's money, phone and watch from out of the mugger's pocket and hand them to Jedakiah who's still on the ground, looking at me in shock. Jedakiah takes them from my hand. "Come on." I tell him as I hold my hand out to help him get up. He takes my hand and pulls himself up, he then stumbles again not being able to put pressure on one of his ankles. I take a deep breath of reluctance and then grab his arm and put it around my shoulder. I put my arm around his lower back and help him walk. We get a block down and go into the burrito shop. I order us both some food and sit down with Jedakiah. I hand him a couple napkins and a bottle of water. "Drink. You need to sober up if you're going to walk the streets at night." I order him and he starts to drink. 5 minutes later the waiter brings my bag of food over and I give Jedakiah one and eat the other. I can tell by the way Jedakiah's eating that burrito that he's seriously enjoying it, getting food all over the place. I chuckle to myself as I watch his drunk ass try and operate. A moment later my dad walks in and spots me "Hey sweetie I'm just out the front, come out when your done no rush." Dad says cheerfully. Jedakiah recognizes my dad's voice and spins around "Sarge! What's going on Sarge!" Jedakiah hollers and waves. Dad waves back, but then notices the blood on Jedakiah's face and walks over. "Jed mat, what happened?" Dad asks worried. "A few guys tried to mug him." I reply on his behalf. "Yeah, Zara helped me though. Should have seen it!" Jedakiah cracks up. "Okay that's enough from you now. I have to go, see you at school." I say to Jedakiah as I get up from my seat and try to signal dad to come on. "We can't just leave him here like this Zara." My dad argues. "He's got people and butlers to come and get him, he'll be fine." I assure him. Dad gives me the side eye. "Zara, he's pissed as a nit and he's bleeding everywhere. He's coming with us. Come on mate!" Dad orders Jedakiah. "Sir yes Sir!" Jedakiah cracks up. I finally get back home, accompanied by an unwanted visitor. Dad insisted on him spending the night and getting cleaned up before he went back home, he didn't want his parents to worry." He's a pretty cool dad. I just wish it was Jedakiah that he was nursing... I finish the takeout in my bag and go to bed.

The next morning, I wake early and go downstairs to make a coffee. I was startled for a moment as I see Jedakiah sleeping on the couch. I forgot for a minute that he had stayed over. I give him a weird look and continue making

my coffee. The noise of the machine wakes Jedakiah. "Can I have one?" He mumbles. I roll my eyes and grab another cup. Jedakiah slowly gets up from the couch, walks into the kitchen and takes a seat on one of the stools at the island counter. I hand him his coffee. "Thanks." He replies. I take a sip of coffee and then stare at him. "What?" He asked. "Nothing." I scoff. There was a long silence as we both drink our coffees silently. "Thank you for last night " Jedakiah eventually says. "You're welcome." I reply as I finish my coffee and put my cup back in the sink. "What are you doing today?" He asked me. "Nothing planned. Probably just do some gaming with Jonah." I reply. "Can I join you?" Jedakiah asked. I pause and look at him confused. At that moment dad comes downstairs. "Morning everyone! How are we feeling today soldier?" dad jokes with Jedakiah. "Better now." Jedakiah smirks. "Good! Well, I'm making pancakes for breakfast, Zara do you think you could whip the cream?" Dad asked. "Sure." I smile. Jonah runs downstairs as well "Jed!" he hollers. "Bro!" Jedakiah says back. "What happened to your face?" Jonah asked him. "I tripped and if fell." Jedakiah smirks. "Yeah right!" Jonah yells as everyone laughs. After we all sit and have pancakes together. Jonah, Jedakiah and I go into the lounge room and play video games for a while. As I watch Jedakiah's horrible Fortnite skills I can't help but laugh. "Ah! You suck!" Jonah yells. "I'm trying my best alright!" Jedakiah snaps. "Well, it sucks!" Jonah snaps back. I leave them to play games as I decide to go outside and train for a while. As Jedakiah grabs a drink from the fridge he notices me training and comes out to watch. I'm on the speed bag practicing jabs and high kicks. "I don't like people watching me." I say as I hear him approach from behind. He chuckles and then puts on a set of gloves. "What are you doing?" I ask him. "Teach me something!" He smirks. "No." I reply as I continue hitting the speed bag. Then I feel him tap me on the back, I turn around and he taps me on the side. "Stop." I tell him. "Oh, come on! Teach me something that will be handy next time I'm in a jam, so I don't need women to save me." He jokes. I scoff at him for a moment. "Alright." I agreed. "When you're being attacked by multiple people, the only thing you should focus on is defense. If you attack constantly, you will run out of stamina quick and will only be able to put 2 maybe 3 men down tops. But if you constantly defend and reflect, you will keep up stamina, strength and your reflex's will still be at peak. So, feel my movements, deflect and look for the opening. Put your hands up." I say as I start the session. He puts his hands up and I start slowly tapping and pushing him on various parts of his body. "Stay focused on my movements. Push, deflect and defend, look for the opening." I say as I tap him in an area he left open. We continue with this as Jedakiah gets more confident. I show him a couple other things that might

be handy, and he starts getting the hang of it. 40 minutes pass and we are on to take downs. He starts getting a little cocky, so I take him down quickly with a side grab and throw him down flat on the mat. He maneuvers around and then flips me down on the mat, then I nudge him off with my foot and pin him down on the mat with my arms holding his and my legs on each side of him. Me both laugh as I move my arms and start tapping his face on every side. "Aye! Aye!" Jedakiah laughs as I show him who is the real champ. "Am I interrupting something?" Jonah smirks. I get off Jedakiah. "No. What is it?" I ask. "Dad asked if we need anything from the supermarket." Jonah says. I think for a moment. "Eggs, milk and cream." I reply. "K!" he says as he runs back inside. "What are you cooking?" Jedakiah asked me. "Potato bake." I reply. "Mm. I love potato bake." Jedakiah states. I give him a look. "What?" He asked. I chuckle for a second and take a deep breath. "Jedakiah Xanarasee, would you like to join us again for dinner?" I ask sarcastically. "Yep." He smirks. "Fine, you can help me prepare it then. Start pulling your weight around here. Going to have to start charging you rent." I mock as I walk inside.

After dad gets back and Jedakiah helps me cook. We all sit down and have dinner together. Shortly after Jedakiah tells us that his chauffeur has arrived to pick him up. He says his goodbye to dad and Jonah and walk him out. "So... I need to officially ask you. Zaralina Montez, will you allow me to be a friend?" Jedakiah asked pulling a puppy dog face. I smirk at him for a moment and take a deep breath. "You can audition." I answer. Jedakiah smile gets a little bigger. "Does that mean you'll let me message you yet?" He asked. "I'll think about it." I reply as I shut the door on his smug face.

I was a little bored as I lay in bed Sunday night. I get out my phone and go through my news feed and check my messages. I look in the corner of my messages list and it says "57 unopened messages from anonymous friends" I can only guess that most of them are Jedakiah. Nevertheless, I was bored so I decided to open them for once. Yep, I was right. 42 unopened messages from Jedakiah Xanarasee. I roll my eyes and open them. The last message was a video, sent on the night Me, Asher, TJ and Joseph went out dancing. Intrigued I press play. I gasp for a second as I watch a video of me dancing in Club Chandelier. I guess they really were there. I hold my mouth and try to hold in a laugh as i watch Jedakiah film the VIP area and see F4 and some other people watching me dance from the balcony. Elijah pulls a face at the

camera and then he shifts it back to me dancing. The video ends and I'm left feeling a little embarrassed. "Oh gosh..." I mutter to myself as I look through all the other ridiculous messages and emoji's he had sent me. I click on Jedakiah's name and finally follow him back then roll over and go to sleep.

Jedakiah directs his chauffeur to go to Seth's after he left Zara's. He rocks up as the rest of F4 are hanging around Seth's bar chatting. Jedakiah walks in, flops himself down on Seth's chair and crosses his arms behind his head wearing a big grin. "Are you smiling?" Elijah asked. "Yes." Jedakiah replies cheerfully. "Should we be worried?" Seth jokes. "Nope. Everything is finally okay." Jedakiah smirks. "Well, fill us in then. You haven't answered your phone since you left the beach bash." Seth says curiously. Jedakiah fills them in on everything and they are a little shocked. "Seriously? You stayed at her house?" Elijah says alarmed. "Yeah." Jedakiah grins. "I mean... That's cool and all. But what about your prearranged princess wife?" Elijah asks. "Who?" Jedakiah snaps. They all look at him with raised eyebrows as he slowly clicks on to what he means. "Oh yeah. What about her?" Jedakiah asked awkwardly. "You still want to go through with it right?" Seth asked. Jedakiah looks at them and pauses for a moment. "Of course I do. Me and Zara are just friends." He tells them. "Okay then..." Elijah replies as he smirks at Luka and Seth. Jedakiah gets out his phone and noticed that Zara has finally opened his messages and has followed him back on Instagram. He stands up abruptly. "Zara opened my messages! AND followed me back!!!!" Jedakiah hollers in celebration. The others give him a weird look and then crack up laughing. "Oh WHATEVER!" Jedakiah snaps as he storms off. The others continue in hysterics.

As Zara rocks up to school the next day on her motorbike, F4 are standing outside the front of the school talking amongst themselves. Jedakiah sees Zara pull up and walks over to her. She removes her helmet gets off her bike and Jedakiah greets her. They start walking into school together and the other members of F4 join them. I see everyone staring at us, gasping and taking photos. Students upload the photos on the group chat and sets off a wild rant. I couldn't be bothered looking at it personally, I didn't care what they said.

Jack and Ruth are standing at the lockers and see me walking up the halls with F4. They have a look of shock on their face as I approach and F4 take off upstairs to their lockers. "Hey." I say as I open my locker. "Umm... Hi?" Jack says awkwardly. "What?" I ask. Jack and Ruth both look at me. "Um... WHAT DO YOU THINK? since when do you walk with F4?" Jack asked astounded. Ruth staring at me wide eyed. "I don't." I reply. "Right..." Jack looks at me annoyed. "Can we not talk about it please? It's still weirding me out." I demand. "Fine." Jack snaps, then starts talking about the weekend. After first break, I had dance class. In the middle of the lesson none other than F4 walk in and sit down. They start watching the girls dance and train and a few walks over to them and started chatting with them. "Perves..." I scoff to myself. Then divert my concentration back to training and focus on my dance routines.

As Zara is dancing F4 are talking to girls and watching them, except for Jedakiah. He can't take his eyes off Zara. He admires her dedication, commitment and talent and how strong she trains. After about 20 minutes F4 return to their classes. I start to warm down and go to the showers.

At lunch Kaleb comes over to sit with me and invites me, Jack and Ruth to his friend's mansion party Friday night. There seems to be somethings always happening if you know the right people it seems. "Did I mention it's an ultra-glow party?" Kaleb says. "What does that mean?" Jack asked confused. "Glow in the dark, it will be cool. Oh, and there will be live DJ's too." Kaleb grins. "Sweet!" Jack hollers. "Sounds fun." Ruth adds. "You know, I need to have z weekend soon where I do NOTHING." I smirk. Indicating that I need a rest from going out. "Do it next weekend then." Kaleb smirks. "I'll think about it." I smile slightly. "Good." He smiles back.

As Zara and Kaleb are sitting together talking, Jedakiah is watching them from F4's VIP lounge in the cafeteria. "How is she so close to all these guys?" Jedakiah complains. "What are you, jealous?" Elijah grins. "No." Jedakiah snaps. Luka, Seth and Elijah raise their eyebrows at him and chuckle. "It's just weird that's all." Jedakiah adds. "It's not weird, you are." Seth jokes as they all continue to have a laugh at him.

Fast forward to the weekend, Asher talks me into going to the mansion party.

Ruth wasn't allowed to come so Jack, Asher and I get ready at Asher's together and head there in a cab. I am wearing a black lace, long sleeve, high neck bodysuit with black skinny jeans and black boots. And of course, my signature dark lipstick. Asher is wearing a black dress, jacket, stocking and boots. Jack is wearing a blue dress shirt, white jeans and black dress shoes. We are all looking pretty bomb tonight if I do say so myself.

As we approach the large, gated mansion, 2 body guards ask for our names and then let us through. Everything is decking out in glow in the dark, UV and Fluro lights, colours, decorations and projector screens playing. As we approach the back yard where the main event is being held, we see a large stage with a DJ performing and at least 200 people dancing and conversing in front of it. There are also large food stands on glass tables with delicious desserts and drinks of every bright colour. It was an extremely gorgeous set up. Suddenly Kaleb and a couple of his friend's approach and show us around.

Jedakiah sees Zara and her friends enter the party. A slight smile brushes across his face as he admires her from a distance. "Want to go and say hi?" Elijah asks sneaking up behind him and putting his arm around his shoulder. "No..." Jedakiah says, trying to play it cool. "Alright then. Well, I'm going to say hi to Ash I'll be back soon!" he announces as he takes off. He runs up to Asher, picks her up and swings her around as she screams. Jedakiah laughs at them and builds up courage to go and talk to Zara.

As the night progresses, I can honestly say I'm having a lot of fun. Kaleb's friends are really good dancers so we all were in the mosh pit together enjoying a good dance, Jack is a terrible dancer but he is hilarious to watch. We were all having a really enjoyable time. Eventually F4 comes over and chats to us, but Jedakiah is weirdly quiet. He vaguely says hi and smiles at me as they leave us to go back to their drinking area. As midnight is approaching, one of the DJ's announce that he is going to start a game for all the "lovers out there" at midnight. "Okay everyone, gather around! Tonight, we will be playing a game that everyone has probably played at least once in their life. 10 seconds in heaven! So, find a partner or your crush, and in 30 seconds we will dim the lights for 7 seconds. Okay, GO!" the DJ hollers as

everyone in the crowd goes wild and rushes around trying to find someone to partner with. Except for me, Asher and Jack. We are just standing there looking awkward. "Too bad we can't play." Asher sulks. "I wouldn't exactly call this a game." I complain. "I'm afraid I'll be attacked if I touch anyone." Jack says. Asher looks at him, "that's a good mindset to have." She replies. I chuckle at them as I look around at the commotion. Suddenly, I see Kaleb standing about 20 feet in front of me. He looks at me intensely... my heart starts to beat fast. Is he... really thinking about coming over here? I wonder... I start getting nervous. Please no. Please no. Please no... I don't play games like this; this is not who I am. I try and tell myself. Then suddenly, I see him take a few steps towards me and then the lights turn off... My body start to shake... I have a minor panic attack, squeeze my eyes shut and pretend I'm not there.

As Kaleb starts walking towards Zara, Jedakiah has been watching the whole time. He's heart jumps a little... He hesitates for a moment, and then is overrun with jealousy. He runs over, cuts off Kaleb and slowly holds Zara's face and kisses her.

Suddenly I feel a warm hand touch my face and lift my head up. I try to run, but I freeze... I feel his lips touch mine... strangely I start to relax. His touch is so soft, his lips feel gentle, and he smells impeccable... I am taken back by how good this feels, and I start to embrace his kiss. Suddenly I feel all the lights turn back on and I gently pull away and look up at Kaleb... Except it wasn't Kaleb at all. It was JEDAKIAH.

"What the heck!" I scream as I push him back and then punch him. "AH! What the heck!" Jedakiah hollers. "What do you think you're doing!" I shout. "What? You kissed me too." Jedakiah claims. "I THOUGHT!... I thought you were someone else!" I shout in a lower tone so that no-one hears. "What?! Who else do you think I am?" Jedakiah snaps. "Ahh!" I scream as I storm out of the party with Asher and Jack, we leave immediately.

Later that night F4 went back to Elijah's to kick on and crash the night. But they all couldn't stop talking about what happened at the party. "Mate... what were you thinking? Elijah scoffs as Luka and Seth cracks up a little as well. "What are you on about? I was just trying to help." Jedakiah insists.

“With what exactly?” Luka asked with raised eyebrows. Jedakiah pauses awkwardly for a moment. “Well, that creep was about to kiss her!” He reasons. “So, you thought you’d be a creep instead?” Seth jokes. “I’m not a creep. All girls want to kiss me!” Jedakiah claims. “Yeah, all except Zara.” Elijah scoffs as they all continue to laugh. “Whatever.” Jedakiah scoffs as he turns away and has a drink. “Jed, do you like Zara?” Luka asked. Jedakiah looks at them all awkwardly again. “Pfft. NO.” He scoffed. “Let’s not get delusional.” He takes another sip of his drink and scoffs again. Then turns around and walks inside laughing. They all look at him strangely and shake their head. “How long do you think he can keep up this charade?” Elijah complains. “I don’t know, but it’s embarrassing.” Seth scoffs. “He’s embarrassing.” Luka adds as they all crack up. Shortly after, Elijah is scrolling through his phone and sees an alarming post. “Oh no... this is not good.” He says abruptly. “What is it?” Luka asked. Elijah gives Luka his phone and he and Seth start to watch. It’s video of the party. All the lights are dim, with only the slight glimpse of figures standing in the dark. Then all the lights turn on the camera scans around and catches a slight glimpse of Elijah ending his kiss and then scans past him and stops at Jedakiah. “OMG that’s Jedakiah.” A woman’s voice is heard saying. The video is zoomed in and then it shows Zara and Jedakiah slowly ending their kiss and then Zara pushing him away and punching him. Luka and Seth look up at Elijah. “I KNOW.” Elijah says. “His mum is going to lose it.” Seth adds. “It’s already been shared 73 times.” Luka says with a concerned look on his face. As Jedakiah walks back out with another drink, he sits down on one of the lounges and has a drink. Then he notices all the worried looks on their faces. “What now!” he snaps. They all glance at each other for a moment. “You should probably see this.” Elijah says handing Jedakiah his phone. He looks confused for a moment as he starts to press play. He watches the video and can’t help but have a smile slightly brush across his face as he watches him and Zara kissing and embracing each other. “So what? It’s good it’s out there. That jerk will leave her alone.” He smirks as he takes another drink. “What if your mother sees this, Jed?” Luka asked. Jedakiah looked a little concerned for a moment. “I’ll just say I was drunk and don’t know her. It’ll be fine.” Jedakiah insists.

Back at Asher’s, the 3 of us rock back up. Fix ourselves a bite to eat and then all get comfy in Asher’s room and watch the Princess Bride together. As we are watching, I keep hearing them giggle and whisper. I look over to them, they stare at me smirking and Asher covering her mouth. I roll my eyes

“What is it.” I ask. “So... when are you going to spill the tea.” Asher asks as her and Jack snorts in laughter. “Shut up.” I snap. “Oh, come on please! It’s your first kiss you have to talk about it!” Asher insists. “I don’t think so.” I reply as I continue to watch the movie. “It is ... kind of funny though. Your arch nemesis being your first kiss and all.” Jack snorts. I roll my eyes and continue to ignore them. “If... you tell us about yours, I’ll give the tea on mine.” She smirks suspicious at me as I snap to look at her. “What?” I say. “YEAH. Now SPILL. How on earth did that end up happening?” Asher asked. I look at both their annoying suspenseful faces and take a deep sigh. “I thought it was Kaleb.” I murmur. “What, really?” Asher asked. “Unlucky.” Jack snorts as I peg a pillow at his head. “Ah!” he hollered. “WELL... Was it good?” Asher smirks. I give her an awkward look and turn away to watch the movie again. “OH MY GOSH. It was, wasn’t it?” Asher hollered. “Please shut up.” I reply and they both crack up. “What about you then? Come on, out with it.” Jack demands. We both look at her as a big grin appears across her face. “Who!” I snap in suspense. “ELIJAH.” She gasps and puts her pillow over her mouth. “WHAT!” Jack and I both holler in unison. She squeals into the pillow. “I know right, totally random. He just came out of nowhere!” She exclaims. “Why are you so excited about it though? I thought you didn’t like them?” I ask. “I don’t. But it’s better than being kissed by some mutant.” She laughs as I roll my eyes at her.

The next morning, I wake up first and make myself a coffee. I go out to the balcony, sit in the sun and check my phone. 2 messages from Ruth. 1 from dad and 9 from Jedakiah. I check them all and reply, except to Jedakiah. I block him from contacting me again and school through the news feed. I suddenly spit out my coffee and look at my phone in horror. I see a post shared by a magazine headlining:

“Jedakiah Xanarasee spotted kissing girl at a party”

I watch the video and sink down in my chair. “No,no,no,no,no...” I start muttering. I scroll down a little more and see another one headlining:

“Jedakiah Xanarasee is kissed and attacked by drunk woman at party”

“WHAT THE HECK!” I holler. I storm back inside. “WAKE UP!” I scream. Jack and Asher wake up startled. “What?” Asher moans. I give her my phone and she looks at me confused as she starts to open her eyes and see the post. “OMG!” Asher hollers. “What! What is it?” Jack asked curious. Asher looks at me and puts her hand over her mouth. She then hands the phone to Jack and

he watches the video. Jack looks at me and snorts for a second. "Jedakiah attacked by drunk woman!" Jack hollers in hysterics. "It's not funny! What if my dad sees this? He's going to freak out." I worry. "True." Jack says. "Didn't think of that." Asher adds. "Can this weekend get any worse? Like, seriously!" I snap as I walk back outside and hear Jack and Asher still trying to contain their amusement.

I get back home later that day, shower and go straight to my room. I just want to hide... Dad comes in and checks on my when he gets home from work. "Hey squirt! How was the live event last night?" He asked cheerfully. I pause for a moment. "It was fun." I smile. "Good good! I'm glad things are going well again. I'll yell out when tea's ready okay!" dad says as he goes back downstairs. I can't help but to think about last night... and how awkward it's going to be at school tomorrow. I pull the pillow to my face and sink into it in despair.

The next day, I ride to school. I get off my bike and Jack and Ruth both run up and greet to greet me, Jack hands me a coffee. "Well, looks like you all had fun on the weekends." Ruth says smirking at me. Jack cracks up as he recalls the strange events. I roll my eyes at them. "Don't talk about it." I snap. "But everyone's talking about it." Ruth whispered. "You and Jed are like... Going viral." She adds. I look at her in horror. "Oh... snap..." Jack says as he stares at the entrance of the school, me and Ruth's eyes follow. I see F4 inside the glass doors standing around the entrance. I start power walking to my locker. As we pass them Jedakiah tries to talk to me. "Zara... I'm sorry." He says as I ignore him and walk past. I get to my locker and open it as quickly as I can and throw my bag in there. I hear a bunch of students in the background whispering, gasping and some chuckling. I look around as I see everyone's eyes on me. I slam my locker shut and go to class. Even worse, the teacher informs us all in class that there will be another student council meeting tomorrow morning. I sink in my seat as I start to dread being stuck in a room with Jedakiah for 30 minutes. If attendance wasn't so important at this school, I would just go home... but unfortunately, I have to stick it out to get the best marks possible. Even missing one student council meeting could be detrimental for me to miss.

I hang out behind the school at first break with Jack and Ruth. "Why are we hanging out here..." Jack says unamused. "Because." I state. "Okay..." Jack says. "You shouldn't hide though. You didn't hide from them when you had a red card so why hide now? This will all pass soon." Ruth assures me. "Just for today, okay? I need a mental break." I say despairingly. "Fair call... Well, dig in then!" Jack exclaims opening his snack pack.

On the way to the student council meeting, I see Kaleb walking down the hall with his friends. I freeze for a moment and then quickly go in a door next to me. I wait in the empty classroom for them to pass and then continue to class. I walk in the common room and I see most people already seated. I hear people whisper as they notice me walk in. I see F4 at the end of the table, with a seat spare next to them. Jedakiah signals me to sit in the seat he saved for me, but ignore him and sit at the opposite end of the long table. "What's this ? honeymoon over already?" Miranda scoffs. "Dumped I bet." Sasha laughs. I ignore them and try to remain calm. "Don't think we don't know how you got Jedakiah to cancel the red card." Miranda snarls. "Yeah! Throwing yourself at him in exchange!" Sasha snaps. The whole table hears our contention and looks at us. "And attacking Jedakiah like that after you throw yourself at him! What kind of crazy whore are you!" Miranda shouts as she gets up out of her seat and walks over to me, Sasha following behind. "People like you need to learn your place. And it isn't around people like us!" Miranda snaps as she grabs my shoulder. As I'm about to put her hand in a lock the situation is diffused. "Miranda!" Jedakiah says aggressively. "Yes Jed?" Miranda smiles. "Don't touch her." He demands, staring at the paperwork in front of him.. The whole table looks a little shocked as Jedakiah stands up for her. She removes her hand from my shoulder. "Sorry Jed." They both say in unison before taking their seats again.

When it finally ends, I get up and go to class and finish the school day unbothered by any more people or accusations. What a nightmare, honestly. Going viral for kissing my high school bully would have to be THE most humiliating and degrading thing that has ever happened to me. I feel like throwing up every time I think about it.

Finally, school ends and I speed walk to my bike so no one has a chance to talk to me. But as I'm about to start my bike, Kaleb pulls me up... Zara! Wait up." He shouts as he hurries over. I give him an awkward smile as he approaches. "I've been trying to reach you since the other night." He says. "I know, I'm sorry. I seen you messaged me. I just... was a little embarrassed I

guess." I eventually get out. "I know." Kaleb says with a smile. I look up at him surprised. "You do?" I ask. He inhales deeply. "Yeah, I do... I saw you freak out and hit Jed then run off. I just wanted to check up on you is all." Kaleb assures me. I smile at him relieved. "Thank you." I reply. "Anyway, I'll let you go. See you tomorrow!" He says as he hurries off to his friends.

Jedakiah saw Zara and Kaleb talking as he was leaving school with Elijah. "You have be kidding me..." Jedakiah mutters as he drives past. "Maybe you didn't scare him off." Elijah laughs. Jedakiah rolls his eyes and continues driving.

When I get home from work that night... Boy was I in for an unpleasant treat. My dad had been shown the post from the weekend at work and he had prepared a blasting for me. "Take a seat." He says firmly as I walk inside. "Okay..." I reply as I put my bag down and sit at the table with him. My gut already knows what this is about... "Anything you want to tell me?" Dad asks. "You saw the post..." I say guilty. "I think the whole state has seen the post by now. Zara, what were you thinking? This will probably be posted in tabloids and magazines do you understand that?" Dad says concerned. "I know Jed's a nice kid, but he comes from a completely different world from us. Everything he does is put in the spotlight. Paparazzi follow him. He doesn't live a normal life." He adds. "I know..." I reply. "Do you like Jed is that it?" Dad asked. "No." I reply. "So, you kiss boys you don't like?" he continues. "Of course not... It was just a game." I reply. "A game? Zara... you should know better then be playing kissing games with boys at school. You weren't raised like that. What about your Christian values?" Dad scolds. "I know... I'm sorry." I reply. Dad takes a deep breath. "Well, your grounded for 2 weeks. And that goes for Jed too! I'm going to have a talk to that boy." Dad mutters as he storms off. I feel horrible... I go upstairs, shower and go to my room until I fall to sleep. I feel so embarrassed... Ah! What was that idiot thinking! Honestly! I'm sick of that freak.

As Zara is lying in bed trying to stop procrastinating on the day, Jedakiah comes over to try to talk to her. Zara's dad answers the door and steps out to have a talk with him. Percy gives Jedakiah a disappointed look, then pulls out his phone and holds up the picture of him and Zara kissing. Jedakiah looks at him awkwardly as he tries to think of the words to say to him.

“Sarge... I’m sorry. It was my fault. I kissed her...” Jedakiah admits. “Why?”

Percy asked. Jedakiah is uncomfortable and looks away. Percy inhales deeply. “Jed. Do you have feelings for Zara?” He asks. Jedakiah looks at him deeply and pauses for a moment. He eventually nods his head and looks to the ground. Percy stares at him trying to think of what to say and do as a parent. “Does she feel the same way about you?” Percy asked him. “No.” Jedakiah replies. “Is that why you hit you?” Percy asked. Jedakiah nods his head. “Right... Well, she’s grounded for 2 weeks, and I would appreciate if you would respect the terms of her punishment as well.” Percy states. “Of course. Sorry again Sarge.” Jedakiah says as he walks back off to his car. “Oh, and Jed, no more kissing my daughter without her consent. She’s not allowed to date until after she graduates.” Percy adds. “Yes Sir.” Jed replies, a little disheartened. He leaves Zara’s and goes home.

Being grounded wasn’t so bad. I didn’t want to be seen right now anyway so home was the ideal place to be. I was only allowed to attend school, work and motocross training though. The first week passes by reasonably quick. Not too many awkward moments just people starting and talking, the usual. Kaleb seems to not have taken the whole Jedakiah kissing me thing to heart, because he still talks to me every day which is a good sign. The following week comes and it’s Tuesday night, I’m at Motocross training with Joseph and the rest of the stunt boys practicing on the jumps. After 1 hour of hard training, we rap up and start the club’s fire drum to stand around and socialize for a while before going home. As we are all standing around chatting Jedakiah walks straight up to me out of nowhere. I give him an off look. “What.” I said. “Can we talk please?” He asks. “Talk.” I shrug as everyone looks at him. He looks around awkwardly for a couple seconds before coming closer to me. “I’m sorry okay... will you please just give me a chance to explain?” He pleads. “No. You people think you can do whatever you want.” I reply bluntly as I start to walk off from him and the crowd. I get on my bike and take off home.

Friday night arrives and dad ends up cutting me a little slack and released me from being grounded 2 days early so I can enjoy a girl’s night with Asher. He’s a softie deep down, God bless him. I really needed a bit of girl time too. Being grounded sucks.

As Asher and Zara are chilling at Asher's. Elijah is messaging Asher trying to set up a reconciliation between Jedakiah and Zara at his place. "I'm getting Asher and Zara to come around." Elijah announces abruptly as him and F4 are at his place with a few girls. Jedakiah props his head up surprised. "What?" He says. "Something wrong?" Elijah asks him sarcastically. "Does she know I'm here?" Jedakiah asks. "Nope." Elijah replies as the others chuckle. Jedakiah looks at them annoyed. "She's not going to like that." He tells them. "What are you, scared?" Seth jokes. "No. I'm just saying..." Jedakiah replies. "Well say less. They're on their way. I said to tell her that I have a large screen gaming setup, which I do so no lie there." Elijah smirks. Jedakiah rolls his eyes. Elijah gets a message and then laughs and shows Seth. "What?" Jedakiah asked curious. "Asher just wrote; Zara's paranoid Jed is there." Elijah says cracking up. "Well at least we know her gut instinct is on point." Seth jokes and they all chuckle. "Great..." Jedakiah mutters.

As Asher and I arrive at Elijahs mansion, we can't help but be blown out by how extreme these people live. But I was excited about playing Fortnite on a mega screen. I got Elijah to send photos to Asher for proof before I agreed, so I'm a little more at ease now. But seeing all of Elijah's mafia like bodyguards is starting to make put me on edge again. One of them lead us through the mansion, into the backyard and under a large under cover area next to a pool house with a big screen projected in front of it. My eyes lit up as I get a little excited, I've never played on a screen this big before. Very alluring for gaming freaks like me. As the guard we follow the guard closer suddenly I see a group of people standing around, then I spot Jedakiah sitting on a stool at the bar. I stop walking, look at Asher and turn back around and try to leave. But Asher grabs my arm. "REALLY?" I whisper in anger. "I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry! You know I love you! But you should really sort this whole thing out. You were finally starting to get along, Elijah said he's been weird since it all happened too." Asher explains. "Why do you care if I speak to Jedakiah all of a sudden?" I snap. Asher looks at me. "Well... because..." She mutters as she stares over at Elijah. They had all noticed us at this point and were watching us dispute. I give her an annoyed look. "Really... ELIJAH!" I whisper shout at her. "KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!" she whisper shouts back. I give her an even more annoyed look. "What? We've been talking a lot lately since the kissing game and yeah ... I don't know. Maybe something will happen okay! I need you to be my wing woman for love so can you just... OKAY!" Asher pleads. I stare at her blankly. "Big screen gaming remember...!" She smiles trying to convince me. I roll my eyes and

reluctantly continue walking in with her. "Ladies! Glad you can make it!" Elijah says as he greets us. I cross my arms and look at him annoyed. "Hey! Can I put my bag somewhere?" Asher asks Elijah. "Of course." Elijah replies as he signals a butler to come over and take her bag. He motions for Zara to let him take hers as well, but she just gives him a weird look, fastens her bag over her shoulder and he walks away.

Jedakiah, Luka and Seth chuckle at how paranoid Zara is.

"Well alright then! Do you ladies want anything to drink?" Elijah asks. "Anything sweet." Asher smiles. "Water." I reply. He motions to a different butler, and he gets us a drink each. "I thought no-one else was here?" I put Elijah on the spot. He raises his hands "They just rocked up, promise." He replies as I look at him with disbelief. "Here, take a seat. It's all set up just login and I'll be with you guys in a moment." Elijah says as he walks to the bar. I plonk my bag down and sit on the long luxurious lounge and start logging into Fortnite. Asher sits with me and starts pointing out all the cool things in Elijah's place. I wasn't interested. I was too annoyed that I was manipulated and lied to just to come here. Anyway, I try to make the most of it while I'm here and start taking my anger out in the game. I go absolute MENTAL first game and win straight up. I celebrate a little as my bad mood is lifting. Elijah sits in-between us and picks up another controller. "Want to go split screen?" He asks. "Sure." I reply. Keen to see what he's got. We load in and the game takes off. Luka, Seth, Jedakiah and their accompany of girls are all spectating me and Elijah play. Elijah gets eliminated first and I score second. "You getting beat by a girl bro?" Seth laughs. "Give me a break! I haven't played in a few days alright!" Elijah snaps. After we played through multiple games Elijah asked if we wanted to play 8 ball. We agree and he sets us up, then he goes over to have a drink at the bar with F4 and the 6 girls they were with. As me and Asher get on to our third game of pool, Asher notices that there are 4 girls at the bar while everyone else is playing darts off to the side and they seem to be taking something. "Zara." Asher nudges me. "Are those girls... Stealing?" She asks. I look over to check because surely not. But to my surprise, they are taking money out of the bottom shelf and passing it to each other, then sticking it down their bra's. We look at each other in disbelief. "Seriously?" Asher whispers. She places her pool cue down on the table and starts walking over to the. I put my cue down and follow behind her. "What the hell do you think you're doing?" Asher asks them. They all look at us and start to giggle. "Why? Do you want some? I guess we could split it with you." One offers. "Are you crazy? Put it back." Asher demands. "Or what?" Another says. "We will tell them you stole."

Asher replies. They all laugh. "Do you think they would actually believe you? Your scum. How about you just get lost!" Another girl demands as she pushed Asher. Asher grabs her and throws her up against the wall. One of the other three girls tries to hit Asher but I grab her and thrust her down onto the bar. They all start screaming at us. "Girls!" Elijah shouts as F4 and the other 2 girls come rushing over. Asher and I release the 2 girls from our grasp, they prop back up infuriated. "What is going on here?" Elijah demands. "Elijah darling, these girls just attacked us for no reason!" One girl said. "It's true! We caught them stealing and they just attacked us!" Another shouts. F4 look at us, Asher and I both scoff. "Thats a bit of a fabrication, don't you think? Asher replies. "You should know better than to trust girls from the ghetto in your home Elijah. You don't know what vermin could be creeping in!" Another hollers.

As Zara and Asher are arguing with the girls, Jedakiah looks at Zara in disbelief. He knows deep down that she isn't lying because he remembers that she doesn't care about money. He starts to get infuriated listening to the group of girls accuse them.

"LIES!!! Pull the cameras." Jedakiah demands. "Cameras?" one girl mutters. "Yes ladies, that's what I was about to tell you. Theres no need to argue about this. A simple review will clear this up." Elijah smirks. I notice the girls faces drop, Asher and I look at each other and smile. Elijah loads the screen and finds the correct day and hour. "Start from 5 minutes ago, yeah?" He says as he presses play, takes a seat on one of his sofas and has a mouthful of popcorn. Everyone starts to watch and listen as the events fully unfold for everyone to see. And surely enough, you see the first girl come into play and notice the box, then opens the box. Then shows the rest of them and they start taking a handful each. Then you see Asher and I come in and confront them. "I think we've seen enough." Seth states. "Agreed." Elijah adds. The 4 girls look at Elijah ashamed. "Return the money now or you will all be charged with theft and transported to the police station." Elijah demands. The 4 girls quickly take all the money out from their bra's and sit it on the table. "Escort these 4 out and put their names on the blacklist. I don't have such despicable women in my presence." Elijah demands the bodyguards, and they remove them from the property. "Well, that was a bad start to the night... Asher, Zara! Forgive me for my unpleasant company. Please, come. Join me in choosing a feast for us all to enjoy together as a thank you." Elijah says gratefully. "It's okay, really." Asher replies. "Do you have fondu?" I ask. Asher looks at me. "What? I'm hungry." I whisper." Elijah laughs. "Anything you want." He replies as he signals the butler again. He takes a massive

order of different pizza's, chips, dips, sauces, fruits, chocolates, wines, beers and cocktails. Within half an hour it was all prepared in Elijah's kitchen and brought out on silver platters. I was a little impressed I can't lie.

After we all had finished feasting, Elijah turns the music up and everyone starts dancing. Everyone except me and Jedakiah. It was a little awkward...

We were sitting across from each other trying not to make eye contact. A few songs pass and I'm still sitting on the sofa and having a laugh at them all. I love seeing Asher happy and smiling, I didn't want to ruin her fun yet, so I waited I put a little longer. Then suddenly "Friends by Justin Bieber comes on and I catch Jedakiah staring at me. I look away annoyed and then looks back at him. The chorus came on and Jedakiah starts pointing at me and him again every time the words "Can we, still be, friends?" were sung. I scoff and look away and end up looking back at him. He then puts his head to the side with a smile and mouths the words "can we be friends?" along with the lyrics. I reluctantly crack up for a second. Not being able to handle how corny he is. I look back at him with a smirk on my face. He smirks back, sits his drink down and walks over to me. He stands in front of me and holds his hand out for me to dance with him. I look at him conceded, not knowing whether I should keep avoiding him or just put it all to bed... Then Elijah and Seth run over and put their arms around Jedakiah. "Come on Zara! Please forgive him!" Elijah yells over the music. "Yeah! he's been moping around for 2 weeks, don't let us deal with this anymore!" Seth shouts. They both keep hollering and putting the pressure on... I reluctantly give in and decide to let things lie. I think to myself as I eventually take his hand, he directs me to the dance floor with everyone else. Seth and Elijah celebrate and then everyone else does as they watch us join them all. Jedakiah doesn't let go of my hand, he makes stupid faces and tries to twirl me and do ridiculous dance moves with me. I can't contain myself any longer and start cracking up. Then as the chorus approaches again everyone in the room starts singing along including me and Jedakiah. We all jump arm in arm, in a circle as the bass drops and then all separate into our own moves again. Jedakiah hits me with a pillow and runs off. I chase him and catch him and slam him on the couch and start playfighting with him. We are both in absolute hysterics. How did we get here honestly? This night is so random.

Seth and Elijah watch Jedakiah and Zara play fighting on the couch and put their arms around each other. "Mission accomplished." Seth celebrates as they fist bump.

As the night ends, Elijah insisted on sending us home in his chauffeur. Reluctantly, we agreed and starting to head out towards the car with F4. "Thanks again for tonight." Elijah says to us as we both enter the vehicle. "You're welcome." Asher replies and they both share a quick chat. I get seated in the chauffeur and wait for Ash to finish flirting with Elijah. As I do, Jedakiah hops in the seat next to me. "What are you doing? I smirk. "Can I message you?" He asks. I pause for a moment, then he pouts at me. I smirk again and look away. "Maybe." I reply. "Please." He pouts. I look at him and try not to laugh. "Please, please, please..." He pouts again. I raise my eyebrows at him smile. "Okay..." I give in. "Now?" Jedakiah asks. "Now?" I repeat. "Yes, now. Get your phone out, I don't have all night." He demands impatiently. "Ah! Your so annoying, seriously." I complain while reluctantly taking my phone out and unblocking him. "There. Happy?" I snap. Jedakiah looks at the phone, then nods his head. "Yep." He smirks. "Now get out." I demand. Asher and I finally leave and head back to her house. And surprise, surprise. 5 minutes into the car ride I get a message from Jedakiah and we start to chat again.

J- Testing 1 2

Z- Funny.

J- That's why you like me.

Z- I don't like you.

J- L

Z- 😞

J- What you doing

Z- Still in the car.. you?

J- Elijah's ordering food again.

Z- Lol

J- You doing anything tomorrow?

Z- Nope.

J- Want to hang out?

Z- Nope.

J- Come on

Z- Are you always this annoying?

J- Yes.

Z- What do you want then?

J- To see you

Z- Why..

J- Because I do. What time will you be home?

Z- 5

J- See you then.

Z- K.

He kept trying to carry on conversation. Every time I ignored him, he would send me multiple angry face picture emoji's. He was so annoying...

The next morning F4 sit around by Elijah's pool with all their feet dangling in the water, enjoying a breakfast drink. "So, good night then boys?" Seth asked. "Was great! And we finally see a smile on our friends face again!" Elijah says trying to grab Jedakiah's cheek like a baby. "Enough." Jedakiah smirks. "No, that's enough. Now tell us." Elijah demands. "Tell you what?" Jedakiah murmurs. "Jed... Do you have feelings for Zara?" Luka asked. Seth and Elijah look at Jedakiah in suspense. "Don't lie either! We're sick of it."

Seth mocks. Jedakiah looks at them all trying to scramble an answer together. He stutters a bit then snaps. "OH! I don't want to! But I can't help it! It's annoying!" Jedakiah finally confesses in rage. They all look at him and try not to laugh at his outburst. "Proud of ya buddy." Elijah laughs. "Me too." Seth adds. "Don't joke." Jedakiah demands. "We're not joking Jed. It's a good thing." Luka assures him with a smile. "Just don't let your mum find out."

Elijah warns.

CHAPTER 7

3 MONTHS LATER

It's halfway through the year and Zara is competing at her club's motocross tournament once again. She lands her last stunt and the crowd goes wild.

Asher, Jack and TJ are with F4 in the grandstand. Asher and Elijah have officially started dating now, So F4 have successfully infiltrated the crew. But they were growing on them, especially Zara.

I head over to get my pictures taken with my club and coach. My crew and F4 all come over and jump in a picture together. Jedakiah and Elijah lift me up and everyone poses. From there Jedakiah puts me on his shoulders and starts running with everyone back to the car park. "NO... NO JED!!!" I squeal.

"Shut up, we're going to celebrate." he hollers as F4 and my crew all run beside us and get in their vehicles. We all head to Elijah's, there's a massive feast set up for us all and Fortnite loaded on the big screen. Everyone starts helping themselves to all the food and drinks and then we all hang out together. As the night progress everyone jumps in Elijah's pool and starts going crazy. I can't stop laughing at all the boys flogging each other with brute force using all the inflatable toys. Asher and I were in absolute hysterics. Then suddenly a piece of pizza comes flying at my head and slaps me while I'm sitting on a blow-up shark in the pool. That then ignites an intense food fight around Elijah's entire back yard. Even some of his guards got hit and had to dodge the food, it was honestly the most fun night I've had all year. This was more my thing, small get together's with good friends.

I HAVENT FINISHED THE BOOK, I WILL UPLOAD MORE AS I WRITE.

Last updated - 08.02.2025

IDEAS FOR LATER.

Enough of the sad girl shit, I'm on that mad girl shit.

Luka plays piano while Zara sings for her half yeah showcase. Jedakiah notices Luka looking at Zara infatuated while they are performing and he starts suspecting Luka may feel something for her.

After Jedakiah goes off and kicks Luka out of F4. He tells Zara that he lost it because Luka was using her to get over Gabriella. But after he confesses his love, he admits to her he only did it because he was jealous.

Kaleb takes Zara to the ball,

Kaleb and Zara perform together live with Kaleb's Band.

Kaleb and Zara have a photoshoot to promote Kaleb's event.

She gets nervous and is about to back out and Jedakiah supports her. After their performance and photos, Kaleb tries to kiss her. Jed accidentally walks in on them but remains out of site and braces himself. Then Zara pulls away, finally realising her feelings for Jedakiah. And runs home. Jedakiah goes to her house to check on her.

Kaleb confronts Zara about Jed always being at her house and says "You don't know what you want ? Or who you want?" as Jedakiah is overhearing from inside.

Zara stays with Jed for 3 weeks after his mum gets Zaras family evicted. While she is staying with him, he takes her to tomorrow land. While there, Zara and Asher get sexually harassed while dancing and Jedakiah throws down his ice cream and strikes the man that touched Zara and starts a fight between his friends and F4. Then we Zara and Asher help them escape from security and they run and hide in a mirror maze. Zara and Jedakiah have a moment together while Zara is looking at his bruised eye. They nearly kiss but is interrupted by Elijah and Asher barging in. On their last day there Jed asks her to sing to him.

When they get back Jedakiah confesses in the rain and they share their first real kiss.

On Zara's last night staying with him things get heated between them in Jedakiah's pool. Zara goes back into the pool house flustered, Jedakiah follows her in and they end up making love.

Zara gets jealous of models hanging off Jedakiah and he says "although you look adorable when your jealous, I hate seeing you jealous. And most importantly you don't have to be. I have no interest in models. There boring to me, everyone is. Except you. He leans in close "I love you Zaralina Montez. It's always been you." he smiles.

Jed's main bodyguard betrays him so for the fortnight Jed hires Zara to take his place.

Girls try to frame Zara and Asher for stealing F4s money

Elijah's friend needs a fill in dancer for his music video so he convinced Zara to audition. F4 go to time square with to accompany her auditioning. She's a bit nervous because the dance routine is a raunchier than she is used to, they convince her to just try and she tells them not to laugh. F4 watches with the judges as zara auditions and F4 are gobsmacked with how good Zara performed and look. Jedakiah nudges Seth for drooling. Seth apologises, he doesn't know what came over him. Elijah and Luka laugh

F4, Zara, Asher and a few girls go on a trip and the girls do a tik tok to "Hair-Little Mix" while the boys are away, then they rock up and join in.

Girl tries to make zara stumble in talent show and they fight and stumble and bring down the curtain.

After Jedakiah is forced to be engaged to his mum's prepared wife. People with a vengeance towards Jedakiah and F4 abduct Zara and threaten to kill her. Jed and his friends save Zara.

But later Zara's dad finds out she was nearly killed and forbids Jedakiah to come near her again until he can guarantee her safety. He tells him he should want this too if he really cares about Zara. He understands and reluctantly leaves Zara' alone. But it's harder then he thought.

While Jed's trying to stay away. he can't help but get jealous of Guys coming near Zara again. He takes her into an empty classroom at school, kisses her and tells her to wait for him

Zara gets impatient waiting for Jedakiah and on purposely makes him jealous in order to see him. Even though she knows he will confront her. He lets himself in and waits for her until she gets home. Jed confronts her and they get in an argument. She cries and admits that she only did it in order to provoke a reaction out of him, anything so she can see him. Jedakiah calms down, cries and tells her not to do that to him again because he thought he's heart was breaking. And that he's only doing all this for her. She says she doesn't care if she dies just don't leave her again. They end up making love and Jedakiah reluctantly leaves in the morning and attempts to avoid her again. But this time she confronts him in the club around F4 and everyone in VIP. He blurts out that he promised her dad what is he supposed to do? But Zara didn't know that. And asked him "well have you found a solution yet? Are you even looking for one?" He says of course is. She says "it doesn't look like it" and looks to the alcohol and tries to walk off. But Jedakiah smashes his glass and walks upto Zara and they get in a heated argument and then she leaves to confront her dad.